

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, June 4, 1992

Published Since 1877

A man called "Uncle" goes to preach the gospel

By Molly Fairchild

Elven Fairchild of Moselle, Miss., who became known as "Uncle" in India, was riding the Kerala Express and praying in his heart, "Lord, What am I going to do? I have spent one and a half days on this hot dusty train going to a strange city. No one will be at the station to meet me because no one knows I'm coming. And here I sit with my wife, Molly, my wheelchair, and five large bags and no one to help me get off this train. I turn it all over to you, for you are the one who called me over here and you are the one who provided me the resources to come. It was only one month ago today, Jan. 12, our church commissioned us and encouraged us to go and preach.

"Upon arriving in Delhi we found the doors closed to the work we were supposed to do. I felt an urgency to go south, so here we are going south with one more day of travel before reaching our destination, Trivandrum. Lord, I'm waiting on you to show me what to do."

Less than two hours later God sent two men to our compartment. They wanted to see what a private compartment looked like. The Indian was C. V. John and the American was Bob Martin, a pastor from Florida. They were also going to Trivandrum. We shared with them why we were going to Trivandrum, how God had called us over to teach college students to communicate the gospel through visual aids, and to preach evange-

listic crusades. John replied, "The answer to your prayer was on the train all the time. I am president of the Trivandrum Bible College and would love for you to teach my students. I will also line you up some crusades and don't worry about your bags or your transportation. The college van will pick you up at the station and the students will be happy to assist you in any way they can. You will stay at the same hotel where Bro. Martin is staying."

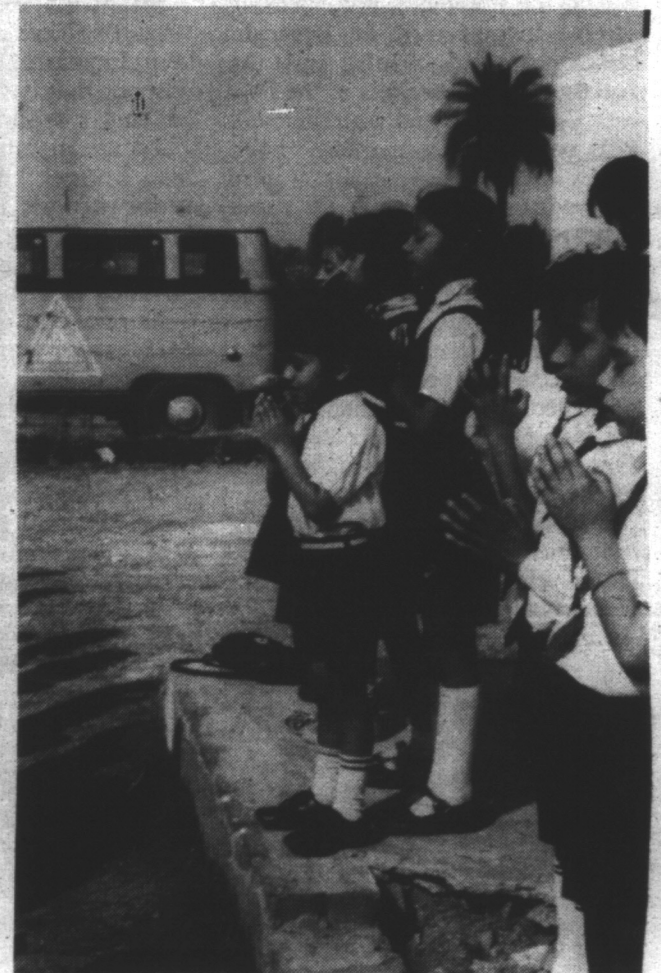
Praise the Lord, God reminded me of his promise, "Even before you ask, I will answer." The next two weeks were very fruitful. God moved us from the hotel to the polio home where Dr. Jones directs the activities of the 150 polio children. Everything at the home was built for the handicapped. We ministered to the staff and the children at the home as they took care of our physical needs.

At the college, the students learned how to make puppets, then make the puppets talk, via ventriloquism. They learned to use gospel magic, object lessons, and flannel graphs. They learned so well we used them in the evening crusades. Our first crusade was a mountaintop experience, as it took place on top of a mountain. The students kicked off their sandals, lifted the wheelchair, (with "Uncle" in it), and carried it up the mountain.

The two weeks went by much too quickly but God had opened



Elven and Molly Fairchild celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary with a garden tea party sponsored by their host and hostess, in Chandigarh, India.



Children at the Christian school of the First Baptist Church, Chandigarh, India, recite the Lord's prayer daily. Although they are Muslim, Hindu, and Sikh, the children's textbook is the Bible.

another door. We moved up to Chattanooga and worked with K. C. Thomas. He is director of 92 Baptist churches and three Bible colleges. Once again we taught the students by day and preached by night.

After two weeks God moved us once again to another state. Justice Banuel picked us up in his little jeep and drove us hundreds of miles across the state of Nadu Tamul. Banuel is director of 85 churches, and he carried us to as many as we could pack into the two-week period.

In spite of the Hindu opposition (for this is a strict Hindu state), God blessed.

After two weeks God reopened the doors to Chandigarh where Bro. Masih is director of the Northwest India Baptist Association, which has 80 churches and 200 mission points where services are held weekly. Three new church buildings are under construction. Not only is Bro. Masih director of the work but is also pastor of the First Baptist Church, Chandigarh.

It was a dream come true seeing the newly constructed church that Southern Baptists helped to build at a cost of \$225,000. The magnificent building has three floors and is a multipurpose building. The church school just enrolled 560 students, K-fourth grade. The students come from non-Christian homes. Many are Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs. But they are taught the Word of God daily, as the Bible is their textbook. They sing, "Jesus Loves Me" and recite the Lord's prayer every morning. Already more space is needed to take care of the children.

We praise God for the 60 ser-

vices to a total congregation of 14,000 with over 1,100 saved. With the exception of six, all the services were connected with a local church that would follow up, enlist, and baptize the new converts. Two new churches grew out of our ministry in Chandigarh. Praise God, these have been the best three months of our lives. We praise God for what he has done, for what he is doing, and for what he will do. We praise him for using this man in a wheelchair who is lovingly called "Uncle."

Elven and Molly are members of Calvary Baptist Church, Petal, Phil Harris, pastor.

Index

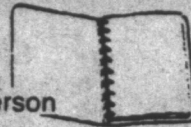
Television and your family	page 9
Faces and Places	page 7
Church News	pages 10-11
Day of Prayer focus people	pages 3, 4
Baptists in Moscow	page 8
Mississippi River ministry	page 6



The First Baptist Church, Chandigarh, Nadu Tamul state, India.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson



Indy's 20,000

The meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention is upon us, (June 9-11). We will gather some 20,000 strong looking at our heritage and hope. The theme is "Bold Believers in a Broken World." Reports will be heard, tribute paid to Harold Bennett and Keith Parks, and we will hear resolutions from Dan (Quayle) to Murphy Brown. Homosexuality, AIDS, the homeless, and seething social issues will be brought before us. Ed Young will be among the last speakers at the Pastors Conference and prophetically will be elected president of the SBC, though Nelson Price and Jess Moody will provide some opposition.

The WMU and perhaps the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship will be targeted with motions and resolutions. Good sermons, great singing, and spectacular productions will be presented ere Morris Chapman lets the last gavel fall. The convention should be fairly peaceful and the results predictable.

The convention will not likely continue as in the last 14 years. There will continue to be some fragmentation in the coming years but little to threaten the convention. The Fellowship grows stronger each day, however, it is still a long way from challenging

the SBC. Some 950 of our 36,000 churches have contributed to the Fellowship.

The SBC's strongly entrenched fundamental/conservative stance is not likely to change. Some attitudes of "good riddance" toward the Fellowship will not sweeten relationships. Thus there will be few, if any, olive branches proffered by SBC nor CBF leadership.

Meanwhile the CBF has enough strength to make it without SBC help. Increasingly from within and without they will feel pressure to become a separate Baptist entity. They are meeting their \$6.5 million budget but have made no great inroads into Cooperative Program giving. They speak now of seminaries, colleges, assembly grounds and the usual organizations of a convention. Just a mild carbon copy of what the SBC already offers.

Rigid platforms where neither group desires reconciliation are being constructed. The CBF did not like the direction of the SBC, withdrew and started their own group. By some chance, if the moderate/conservatives group ever regained leadership in the SBC, a group of the fundamental/conservatives would withdraw and begin their "fellowship." I suspect the CBF will eventually get about

10% of the SBC and if the fundamental/conservatives ever pulled away into a fellowship they would get about 10% on the opposite extreme. Not many are interested in leaving the SBC and probably 90% will continue to lean toward the SBC. We would rather stay in a familiar house even if we don't like the way the rooms have been rearranged.

Many have grown weary of the struggle. The Bold Mission Thrust and winning the world to Jesus is assuredly weaker. "What did you do in the war, Daddy?" Ecclesiastically we can spend our days straining at gnats and swallowing camels.

An old and honored soldier of the cross wrote me a letter. For more than 60 years he worked hard for his Lord in the SBC. Toward the end he said, "Now they are both beginning to back away from each of the extreme groups at each end. Maybe they will bump into each other going backward and discover that they are friends after all." Let it be Lord, let it be.

Indianapolis could mean a great convention. I hope the CBF brethren will attend. Dare we hope the tent will be broadened a bit? Could we let the love of Christ constrain us to love one another?

Pastor group endorses Ed Young for president

SPARTANBURG, S.C. (BP)—A group of 21 Southern Baptist pastors has endorsed Ed Young for president of the Southern Baptist Convention, according to a news release issued by Michael S. Hamlet, pastor of First Church of North Spartanburg, S.C.

The signed four-part endorsement included, "We enthusiastically endorse the nomination of Ed Young for president of the SBC." The release cited Young's record as pastor of Second Church in Houston, "one of the greatest soul-winning churches in America."

Pastors signing the document were Bobby Boyles of First Church of Moore, Okla.; Joe Brown, Hickory Grove of Charlotte, N.C.; Curt Dodd, Metropolitan Church of Houston; Ronnie Floyd, First Church of Springdale, Ark.; Jack Graham, Prestonwood Church of Dallas; David Hankins,

Trinity Church of Lake Charles, La.; Michael Hailey, First Church of Lakeland, Fla.

Johnny Hunt, First Church of Woodstock, Ga.; Charles Lowery, Hoffmantown Church of Albuquerque, N.M.; James Merritt, First Church of North Mobile, Saraland, Ala.; Ike Reighard, New Hope of Fayetteville, Ga.; Rick Scarborough, First Church

of Pearland, Texas.

Jerry Sutton, Two Rivers of Nashville; Larry Thompson, Dauphin Way of Mobile, Ala.; Len Turner, Calvary Temple of Savannah, Ga.; Claude Thomas, First Church of Euless, Texas; Randall Williams, First Church of Tampa, Fla.; Larry Wynn, Hebron Church of Dacula, Ga.; and Ham-

The little baby girl had a rough time. A few minutes after she was born she was placed in a garbage sack, and then in the trunk of a Jackson woman's car. The woman turned out to be the baby's great-aunt. She heard the baby crying and ultimately rescued the baby.

"She's a fighter," said the rescue team. At the hospital, the nurses named her "Hope." She continues to fight for her life after experiencing respiratory distress and a rather

unusual welcome to the big world.

The child's mother was charged with child abuse and neglect, as of June 2.

The thing is, the mother could have done the same thing a few months earlier by having an abortion. She could have placed the fetus in a garbage sack, and it would have been no crime... according to the laws of man. It was only a matter of time. — GH

"The truth shall make you free"
(John 8:32)

Get the facts and **VOTE!**
IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO ENSURE RELIGIOUS LIBERTY.

Observe Religious Liberty Sunday
June 7, 1992
Sponsored by the Christian Life Commission
of the Southern Baptist Convention

Christian citizenship

By Herschel H. Hobbs

"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God" (Rom. 13:1).

Christians are citizens of two kingdoms: the kingdom of God and the nation of which they are a part. They are to be good citizens of both. Our prior loyalty is to God. But unless a nation's laws come between us and God, they should be obeyed. If we disobey such, we should be prepared to bear the penalty for it. "Damnation" (v. 2) should read "judgment." To disobey good laws is to disobey God.

"Ordained of God does not mean that he approves of every form of government or all of its acts. It means that God has ordained the institution of government to produce a well-ordered society. "Rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil" (v. 3). Only

lawbreakers need fear governmental powers. Even if Christians disobey laws contrary to their Christian convictions they should suffer as Christians, not as criminals (1 Pet. 4:14-16).

Note "sword" in verse 4. Policemen wore swords as today they wear guns. Also the sword was used in capital punishment for Roman citizens who were beheaded.

Note that rulers are called "the minister of God to thee for good (v. 4a). "Minister" in verse 4 translates "diakonos," used also for Christian servants. In verse 6 it renders "leitourgos." It was used of public servants and of priests serving in the temple.

Christians are to pay their taxes (vv. 6-7). And they are to obey laws, not out of fear of punishment, but out of a Christian conscience (v. 5).

Hobbs is pastor emeritus, First Church, Oklahoma City.

Only a matter of time

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SBC meeting will include homosexuality, Freemasonry

By Mark Wingfield

INDIANAPOLIS (ABP) — After 13 years of fighting about the inspiration of the Bible, Southern Baptists are poised now to delve into how the Bible ought to influence the actions of churches and their members — at least on two issues.

How churches relate to homosexuals and how church members relate to Masonic lodges are the two most controversial issues likely to be debated by messengers to this year's Southern Baptist Convention. The annual meeting is set for the Hoosier Dome in Indianapolis June 9-11.

Here's a look at those and other issues slated for debate:

— Homosexuality. Some action intended to exclude from the SBC any church affirming a homosexual lifestyle is likely to be debated.

Precisely what form such a motion might take is unclear. The motion — or several motions — could come from the floor or could be offered by the SBC Executive Committee.

Homosexuality has been the center of attention among Southern Baptists nationwide since two North Carolina churches took sepa-

rate actions this spring — one blessing the "union" of two homosexual men, the other ordaining a homosexual divinity student to the ministry.

The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina last month ousted Pullen Memorial Church in Raleigh and Binkley Memorial Church in Chapel Hill over the issue. Pullen was expelled by Raleigh Association earlier this year. Binkley has not been involved in any Baptist association for several years.

In February, the SBC Executive Committee passed a resolution critical of the two churches' actions, which were under consideration but not finalized at the time. The committee also referred to the bylaws workgroup two motions that would exclude from the SBC "churches endorsing homosexuality."

— Freemasonry. Southern Baptists have skirted the issue of Freemasonry for several years, but the simmering debate is likely to come to a head this year in Indianapolis.

The issue is sure to generate heated debate since, according to a poll by the SBC Sunday School Board, 14% of Baptist pastors and 18% of deacon chairmen are or have been

Masons.

— Relationship of Woman's Missionary Union to SBC. The SBC Executive Committee will recommend adoption of revisions in the program statement of Woman's Missionary Union, which functions as an auxiliary to the SBC.

Among the revisions is a statement that WMU should work with "churches of the Southern Baptist Convention." That addition apparently is intended to discourage WMU from supporting mission endeavors of SBC splinter groups such as the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

At its June 8 meeting, the Executive Committee will consider whether to proceed with a motion that would ask WMU to become an agency of the SBC. That issue could be brought to the convention floor for consideration.

Some Executive Committee members would like to bring WMU under the control of the SBC's new fundamental-conservative leadership. However, WMU leaders have said they would decline any invitation to give up their auxiliary status.

Wingfield is news director, Kentucky WESTERN RECORDER.

Africa's Fulani are focus, day of prayer

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — During 1992's Day of Prayer and Fasting for World Evangelization — 6 p.m., Friday, June 5, through 6 p.m., Saturday, June 6 — Southern Baptists are urged to pray for west Africa's Fulani (pronounced foo-lahn-ee) people.

Just before Pentecost Sunday each year, the Foreign Mission Board calls Southern Baptists to join other Christians worldwide in praying for a people group virtually unreached by Christ's gospel.

This year's people group — the world's largest nomadic society of between 10 to 14 million people — has searched for water and grazing land for their cattle for centuries. Their search has dispersed them among 18 African countries.

The Fulani share common bonds in staunch devotion to Islam, cattle, a stoic code of ethics and a variety of related languages and dialects. But their movement of

herds across national borders is sometimes restricted. Prolonged drought and Africa's population explosion also threaten the Fulani's traditional way of life.

For more than 30 years Southern Baptists have worked among the Fulani yet only a few thousand Fulani Christians exist.

Prayer is the key to Fulani ministry.

This year, the Foreign Mission Board's prayer office asks Southern Baptists to pray for Southern Baptist missionaries working among the Fulani and that:

— the Fulani will respond to the gospel message and those who become Christians will not experience extreme persecution.

— Fulani Christians will be allowed to stay in their villages and evangelize their own people.

— Christian workers will have victory during spiritual warfare that distracts and discourages them.



ZEALOUS FOR ISLAM — A Fulani man in Nigeria carefully prints by hand a section of the Koran, Islam's holy book, which he teaches to young people in his village. The Fulani people, the world's largest nomadic group and zealous Muslims, are the focus of the June 5-6 Day of Prayer and Fasting for World Evangelization. (BP photo by Don Rutledge)

Chapman disinvoices Price

INDIANAPOLIS (ABP) — Nelson Price, first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention and a candidate for the SBC presidency, won't be allowed the customary role of introducing the current president, Morris Chapman, during the opening session of the SBC meeting June 9.

Chapman acknowledged he invited Price to introduce him for the presidential address Tuesday morning — a role usually assigned to the first vice president — but then withdrew the invitation when he learned Price would be nominated for president.

Chapman told Associated Baptist Press giving Price that role might afford him an advantage over the other candidates in the presidential election, which is scheduled for that afternoon.

Chapman said he asked Price, an Atlanta-area pastor, to introduce him during a personal conversation Feb. 18, three days before Price announced he would be a nominee for president.

"At that time he said nothing about his intention to be nominated," Chapman recalled. "Once he announced for the presidency, I had the growing conviction that I

did not want to politicize the introduction of my presidential address. I explained to him my concern. He seemed to fully understand."

Price, pastor of Roswell Street Church in Marietta, Ga., told ABP, "I had not concluded on the 18th that I was going to allow my nomination." That decision was not made until Feb. 20, he said.

Price, a leader in the SBC fundamental-conservative movement, disrupted the usually predictable pattern of SBC elections by announcing his candidacy Feb. 21 without the endorsement of the leaders of the movement, which has controlled the election of officers for more than a decade.

Although voted first vice president last year with the support of those leaders, Price said it is time for the movement to abandon "party" politics in favor of an "open convention." Noting the movement had no public candidate at the time of his announcement, Price said, "If all they wanted was a conservative candidate, they had one."

Within a week of Price's announcement, however, those leaders came out in support of Houston pastor Edwin Young for president.

Chapman, twice elected president with the endorsement of the fundamental-conservative movement, said the circumstances of Price's announcement put him "in a bind" between Price and Young. As moderator of the convention, Chapman said, he did not want to be "perceived as providing someone any advantage prior to the election."

By disinvoicing Price, Chapman said, "I was not trying to sell him down the river. In no way did I consider this a slight of Nelson."

Chapman, pastor of First Baptist of Wichita Falls, Texas, said Price will moderate a Wednesday session of the convention, which will be held June 9-11 in the Hoosier Dome in Indianapolis. Likewise, second vice president Ed Harrison, a pastor from Pine Bluff, Ark., will moderate one session.

Although messengers to the SBC likely won't hear from Price on Tuesday, most will have an opportunity to hear Young in the customary role of the fundamental-conservative candidate — preaching in the closing session of the Pastors' Conference, which concludes the night before in the same arena.

May Cooperative Program and designated gifts down

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program total received by the Executive Committee for May took a big drop compared to a year ago, according to Harold C. Bennett, Executive Committee president-treasurer.

The May 1992 total was \$10,680,560 compared to \$12,415,289 the same month a year ago or a 13.97% decrease. Designated gifts also suffered compared

to a year ago: \$15,961,706 to \$19,608,602, an 18.6% decrease.

"I'm disappointed," Bennett said in response to the report.

After eight months of the SBC fiscal year, CP gifts are \$3,245,506 behind the comparable period in 1990-91 which is a 3.39% drop. Designated gifts for the fiscal year also are short compared to the previous year: \$105,601,581 compared to \$107,083,976 or a 1.38% drop.

No Baptist Record June 11

There will be no Baptist Record for the week of Thursday, June 11, 1992. Our postal requirements dictate that the Baptist Record publish only 50 issues per year. Since 1992 has 53 weeks, there will be no issues for June 11, July 2, or December 24. Advertising and news deadlines for those issues will be observed a week in advance.

SBC Activities

There will be activities galore at the SBC and choices will be many. Estimated attendance for the June 9-11 meeting in Indianapolis is 18,000 to 20,000.

Saturday
Crossover Indianapolis - Sharing Christ with the city

Sunday
Worship in the local churches
WMU Convention 2:30 p.m. - Convention Center
Pastor's Conference 6:00 p.m. - Hoosier Dome
Church Musicians 7:00 p.m. - Northside Baptist Church
Directors of Missions 2:00 p.m. - Holiday Inn North
Religious Educators 2:00 p.m. - Adam Marks Hotel
Hispanic Ministers Conference 6:30 p.m. - Chapelwood Baptist Church

Monday
All of the Sunday conferences will continue plus
New Work Fellowship 9:30 a.m. - Hyatt Regency Hotel

Tuesday
SBC - Convention 8:30 a.m. - Hoosier Dome
Ministers Wives luncheon 12:15 - Hyatt Regency

Wednesday
Brotherhood Breakfast 7:00 - Hyatt Regency
SBC continues 8:30 a.m. - Hoosier Dome
Midwestern Seminary luncheon - Embassy Suites Hotel
Golden Gate Seminary luncheon - Embassy Suites Hotel
New Orleans Seminary luncheon - Convention Center
Southeastern Seminary luncheon - Hyatt Regency Hotel
Southern Seminary luncheon - Hilton at-the-Circle
Southwestern Seminary luncheon - Hyatt Regency
SBC Evangelists Conference 1:15 p.m. - Hoosier Dome's Hall D
SBC Evangelists Wives luncheon 12 noon - Hyatt Regency
No Wednesday afternoon SBC meeting
Foreign Mission Board reception 4-5:30 p.m. - Westin Hotel

Thursday
Annuity Board breakfast for Annuitants 7:30 a.m. - Westin Hotel
SBC continues 8:30 a.m. - Hoosier Dome
Child care only during SBC six scheduled sessions - capacity is 75 children. Pre-register early for reservations. Shuttle bus services available from most hotels.

Florida pastor will ask SBC to limit severance gifts

By Jack Brymer

SANFORD, Fla. (BP) — A Florida pastor has announced he will make a motion during the Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis to limit severance gifts by convention agencies and institutions.

Bobby McFalls, pastor of Westview Church in Sanford, said, "I will move that the Executive Committee and the trustees of all agencies, boards, commissions, and theological seminaries of the Southern Baptist Convention be limited in authorizing additional severance benefits, deferred income and escrow transfers, and related benefits as gifts for employees of their respective entities."

McFall's six-point motion would: 1) prohibit any severance package for employees with less than five years' denominational

service, except those benefits designated by policy; 2) put a cap of \$25,000 on benefits for those with five to 10 years' service; 3) limit the maximum of any severance package to \$50,000, excluding unused vacation time, accrued sick leave and other severance benefits stated by policy; 4) provide no additional luxury gifts from monies contributed by churches through the Cooperative Program and special missions offerings; and 5) provide no lifetime travel and expenses without approval of the SBC in annual session.

The sixth point of McFalls' motion calls for all SBC entities to report to the 1993 meeting in Houston June 15-17 on how the matter was handled by their respective trustees.

Brymer is editor of Florida BAPTIST WITNESS.

Reception will honor Meltons

For 30 years, Charles Melton has served Newton Association as director of missions. His wife Vera also served as associational secretary during that time. The Meltons will retire March 1.

The association will honor the Meltons on June 7 at First Church, Newton, 2:30-4 p.m. "Charles and Vera Melton Appreciation Day"

will begin with a brief service in the sanctuary, followed by a reception in the family life building.

The association plans to present the Meltons with a book of letters and a monetary gift. Persons or groups who wish to contribute may still do so by sending letters, monies, or other gifts to the associational office.



READY FOR CELEBRATION — Fulani women prepare food for a baby-naming ceremony in the village of Sabon Gari, Nigeria. The mobility of the Fulani, the largest nomadic people in the world, is being increasingly restricted by nations and economics. But this makes the Muslim Fulani group, which numbers as many as 14 million people in 18 African countries, more accessible to Southern Baptists and other Christians working to spread the gospel. The Fulani are the focus of the June 5-6 Day of Prayer and Fasting for World Evangelization. (BP photo by Don Rutledge)

The Fulani of west Africa: changes hobble a way of life

By Donald D. Martin

TEDMUZU, Nigeria (BP) — At dawn on open farmland in northern Nigeria, a small herd of dusty white cattle draws around a campfire of dried dung and grass.

A Fulani cattleman near the campfire calls to his herd. Other small fires glow in the darkened fields, but the cattle easily find their master's voice.

As cattle crowd close to the fire, Fulani boys squeeze between the packed cattle, feeding cow chips and stalks of harvested Guinea corn to the flames then sprinting away for more fuel. Plumes of dense smoke filter through the herd. The docile cattle move so close to the fires that blue-green flames lick at their sides.

Cattleman Saidu Shiroma, owner of the herd, explains the smoke and fire temporarily relieve his cattle of nagging insects. For these few minutes each morning, his cattle enjoy a break from the incessant attacks of flies, mosquitoes and gnats.

As the herd of about 30 animals enjoys the fire's protection, Shiroma's sons move through the pack hobbling some of the cattle. Two boys lean into a pair of cows with their shoulders, forcing them to face each other. One boy reaches down and ties the cows' front left legs together. Several pairs are squared off and hobbled.

Shiroma, with more than a hint of pride, scolds his sons. They are slow and their knots are no good, he barks. When it comes time to milk, he will probably spend the whole morning rounding them up again.

But the herd stays in place. The knots hold and the milking moves along quickly. Soon the boys have collected enough milk for the day's meals and possibly some for market.

Shiroma pauses, watching his

sons work the cattle. He acknowledges his good fortune — his sons are able, he is welcome on the land, his herd is fairly healthy.

But Shiroma, like other Fulani, feels the pressure of change. Prolonged drought and Africa's population explosion now threaten the Fulani way of life. The need to cultivate more and more farmland steadily devours the sub-Saharan's sparse grasslands, explains Ron Holcomb, a Southern Baptist agricultural missionary. Holcomb of Denton, Texas, and his wife, Karen, from Houston, live in Jos, Nigeria, and work in Fulani evangelism.

Holcomb met Shiroma in 1989, when Shiroma came to Jos seeking medical help for his cattle. The Holcombs had recently begun inoculating Fulani cattle as part of a new Fulani outreach program. Since then Holcomb and Shiroma have become friends.

On this morning, Holcomb had come to examine some of Shiroma's cattle. Several listless cows showed signs of internal parasites, an easily treated ailment.

But a greater threat than parasites is the cattleman's right to use the grazing land his family has inhabited for generations. In less than one generation, Shiroma has seen this region in northern Nigeria transformed from open range to jealously guarded farmland. What was free grazing for his father's cattle now costs him about \$10 a day — a sum unheard of just seven years ago. To pay the fees, Shiroma raises goats and rams to sell. Of late, he has even had to sell cattle.

Shiroma can't say with confidence his grandchildren will know this way of life.

For centuries, the Fulani of western Africa have been a fiercely independent nomadic people, many

opting for free movement rather than ownership of land. The constant search for water and grass have dispersed them into some 18 African countries. They are concentrated in western Africa but can be found as far east as Sudan and Ethiopia. They number between 10 and 14 million, making them the world's largest nomadic people.

The Fulani share common bonds in Islam, cattle, a stoic code of ethics called "pulaaku" and a variety of related languages and dialects. "Pulaaku," which has upheld Fulani identity for generations, transcends national boundaries and enforces a Fulani's personal reserve and pride. Similar to "losing face" in an Asian society, a Fulani who shows pain, joy, anger or any strong emotion loses "pulaaku."

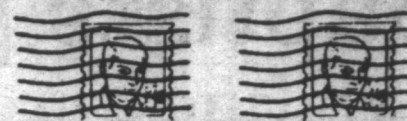
Fulani identity also is rooted in Muslim Fulani dynasties of the 18th and 19th centuries. Muslim traders in the 14th century introduced Islam to Fulani herdsmen. In time Fulani who lived in cities became known for staunch devotion to Islam. Their religious zeal and an ethnocentrism viewing all non-Fulani as a lower class led to a series of holy wars, explains Victor Azarya in his book, *Aristocrats Facing Change*.

"In most of the places to which they spread, the Fulani were subjected to populations whom they despised," Azarya wrote. "Islam increased the feeling of cultural and religious superiority of its believers ... It increased the frustration of its believers at being ruled by nonbelievers. Moreover, Islam made it a religious duty for its believers to liberate themselves through flight ('hijra') and holy war ('jihad')."

Through a series of Islamic holy (See FULANI on page 13)



Letters to the editor



Fears interruption of missions

Editor:
It was my privilege to serve on the Foreign Mission Board for approximately 11 years, the first two years under the leadership of Baker James Cauthen and the remaining nine years under the leadership of Keith Parks. It was my privilege to serve as chairman of the board for two years. This background is not included boastfully, but to illustrate my interest in missions.

I was in attendance at Glorieta Assembly when Keith Parks and family were presented by the search committee to the board. I was convinced then as I have been down through the years that he was God's man for this time in the history of missions of Southern Baptists. I have been active in business and church affairs all of my life and have known many outstanding leaders. I have never met a more intelligent, more capable, more committed, or stronger leader than Keith Parks. He has led the Foreign Mission Board in a most excellent way, utilizing business principles and organizational skills, but always under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. Missionaries and mission organizations around the world were confident that they were part of the largest, most successful mission enterprise ever assembled. They were confident of their leader and his vision for the future.

It is a tragedy that the present board did not realize that its role was to support the staff, approve the budget, and set "policy" rather than attempt to manage the day-to-day affairs of the board.

It is a tragedy that unreasonable pressures made it impossible for Parks to continue to lead as he had done so effectively. It is a tragedy that a smooth transition of leadership could not be allowed to take place as in the past.

I fear that the foreign missions program of Southern Baptists will be unnecessarily interrupted because of his premature departure.

I pray that it won't!

Gene A. Triggs, former chairman
Foreign Mission Board
Yazoo City

"Earth Day" shock

Editor:

I dearly enjoy the Baptist Record and read it every Thursday before my local paper. I must, however, express my shock and displeasure at the front-page article in the April 23 issue on environmentalism. It contains several biblical and factual errors.

Robert Parham leads us to believe that a good Christian not only participates but exceeds "Earth Day" environmentalism. The fact is that most hard-core environmentalists, including "Earth Day" founders, see nature in primary importance, above that of humans. This is definitely

wrong.

He wants churches to participate in environmentalism, when we cannot even do the basics of Christianity, which is to minister to believers and save the lost.

He says there is an environmental "crisis." Yet today, there are more trees in America than at the turn of the century; plants are growing as well as they ever have; and humans and animals are living longer and healthier than ever before in recorded history.

He says the "food supply is placed at risk by herbicides, antibiotics, and growth hormones." I say the food supply is guaranteed by these and other agents. Without them, agriculture would regress to where it was in the 1700s and people would starve to death. Would God be pleased?

And, he says 90% of animal drugs have not been approved as safe. I say 100% of animal drugs sold in the United States are E.P.A. approved and registered. He is simply not telling the truth.

Anthony DeLee
Collins

Confused by editorials

Editor:

I'm a new pastor in the state and must admit I'm a bit confused concerning the content of your editorials. Only a few years ago your writings were pleas for peace and mutual understanding among the "warring factions" within our convention. Now that circumstances might allow for harmony, why do your commentaries promote hostile resistance within the SBC?

If you doubt what I'm saying to be the truth, read for yourself your words of criticism on practically every move our convention makes. Then read your commentary for the week of May 12, 1992 and tell me you're not promoting division within the SBC.

This pastor is all for peace within the SBC, but not at the cost of compromise. Some things are worth fighting for. And when the battle is over we must lick our wounds and begin the process of reconstruction. It's nice to know that the apostle Peter didn't promote division within the church after he was corrected concerning his doctrinal error (Gal. 2:11-14).

John M. Hosey, pastor
Fellowship Church
Taylorsville

Editor's Note: The editor continues to desire peace. Any harmony we have today is because an estimated 40% of our convention is not involved in the decision-making process.

Cooperation versus compromise

Editor:

Recently the opinion was expressed by a writer to the Baptist Record that the convention has no right to censure a cooperating church for its stand related to leadership or lifestyle. The writer implied that a "cooperating

church" is a church that gives to the work of missions through the convention.

Cooperation, according to the Baptist Faith and Message, has a much broader definition. It says, "Cooperation is desirable between the various Christian denominations, when the end to be attained is itself justified, and when such cooperation involves no violation of conscience or compromise of loyalty to Christ and his Word as revealed in the New Testament." Perhaps it is creedal to cite the Baptist Faith and Message. However, it is the guideline statement by which we have chosen to express our system of belief. Its acceptance is such that Southern Baptists would not have allowed me to serve as a missionary of our Foreign Mission Board without my agreement to the principles of this document.

Those churches who desire to support homosexual lifestyle and orientation have every right to that position under the historic Baptist principle of autonomy. However, cooperation is much more than financial support of the convention. If the messengers of the Southern Baptist Convention believe that in good conscience they cannot cooperate with messengers from churches which condone the practice of homosexuality, because to do so would compromise loyalty to Christ and his Word as revealed in the New Testament, they will not have betrayed our historic position. Rather, they will have simply followed the tenants of cooperation which we have long agreed will guide us.

David M. Minshew,
missionary
Luanda, Angola

Feels like step-child

Editor:

I hesitate to write, however feel that there are many readers of the Baptist Record who feel exactly as I do about the general tone of the majority of your editorials. I understand perfectly the need to report different viewpoints and the term "freedom of the press." I am confused though as to why the vast majority of your editorials sound as if they were written by the Fellowship!

I have to look again at the front page to make sure I am reading the Baptist Record, not some "political propaganda" designed to advance an unerring idealism.

The word "editorial" reflects the opinions of the editor or publisher according to the dictionary. Therefore it appears you are within your definition and there is little question as to your opinion!

I believe that a vast number of readers each week had rather hear other opinions on matters that a man of your caliber should be able to relate. I respect your opinion and your right to express it but please remember that there are a big big number of Mississippi Baptists who rather not be over-

dosed with the "sugar and spice" of the reported "moderates!" Remember one never makes one child love another one more by the petting of the favored! And certainly not by always agreeing with either! And by the way... I'm neither one child or the other and feeling more and more like a step-child all along the way!

Tommy Wilder, pastor
Ridgecrest Church
Corinth

Seeking families

Editor:

Liberty Church of DeKalb is preparing for its 150th anniversary celebration to be held Aug. 9, 1992. An attempt is being made to locate people who participated in the 100th anniversary. The church records list the following people as present on that occasion:

1. The Alexander family
2. The Lloyd family
3. The Spinks family
4. The Brame family
5. The Eugene Stephens family

Please contact us if you or one of your descendants would like to participate in this special celebration or if you know how to reach any of these people.

The committee members and their telephone numbers are:

Roy Watts, DeKalb 743-2339
James Rawlings, Meridian 482-7994
James Bounds, DeKalb 743-2344

Please let us hear from you no later than June 12. Your assistance in making this event as memorable as possible will be greatly appreciated.

Dorothy Allen
DeKalb

Concern about future

Editor:

We have been following the reports of our convention agencies over the past several months with great concern about our future as your representatives overseas. We admit that most, but not all, of our concerns come from the reports presented in the Baptist Record and/or friends in the States. We would like to comment on a few of these concerns.

One is that Paul Pressler has just finished eight years on the Executive Committee and has now been nominated as trustee to the Foreign Mission Board. Maybe this is common and we just noticed it. Are we so limited in qualified people that the same ones are nominated over and over again? Is this what is meant by "widening the tent" as was said by a president of the convention? We are concerned that his election will lead to many missionaries resigning.

Also a concern is our hurt that Keith Parks had to "choose" retirement. We feel that he is a Spirit-led man who had a call of God to implement a plan to reach the world and not an "old man" trying to hang on to his job as was hinted by one trustee and reported in the

paper.

One more thing, to consider a president of the FMB who has never been a career missionary is a travesty. We believe that most missionaries feel that they have been disenfranchised. How do you feel?

Al and Emily Green,
missionaries
Argentina

Conjuring images?

Editor:

I write concerning the C. R. Daley column appearing recently in a number of papers.

Daley said that the Executive Committee was receiving a 4.67% increase while the other SBC entities were taking cuts. This is incorrect. Daley, with his long career as a state paper editor, and the papers which ran his remarks, are negligent in publishing this statement.

The Executive Committee is taking the same .36% cut in Cooperative program income as the other entities. The 4.67% budget simply acknowledges increased revenue from the Sunday School Board. Each year the Board contributes a portion of its income to the Southern Baptist Convention operating budget in keeping with its program assignment from the Southern Baptist Convention. This money, for example, helps to fund the annual meeting and other expenses of the Convention.

Daley does not mention the income the other agencies receive from non-Cooperative Program sources, such as wills, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, endowments, and alumni campaigns. If these dollars were taken into account, then many of them would also show an increase.

He counts the Executive Committee one way and the other entities another way. He compares apples with oranges.

His use of the term "administration" is also misleading. He lumps gifts to the Baptist World Alliance, hall rental for the annual meeting, Baptist Press, the Baptist Bulletin Service, and the production of the Meet Southern Baptists brochure as administration. These are services that Southern Baptists have come to expect. And in what sense was the \$250,000 expense of the Crowder lawsuit and the Peace Committee cost "administration?"

He failed to distinguish between the Executive Committee budget and Convention operations. Notice how he categorizes the parliamentarian, putting him under Executive Committee "administration."

Daley conjured up the image of an expanding bureaucracy. In fact, the Executive Committee staff is no larger than it was 15 years ago — 20 employees including the building superintendent and mail room staff.

Mark Coppenger,
vice president for
Convention relations
Executive Committee

Baptists plan ministry in Mississippi River region

By David Winfrey

ATLANTA (BP) — In a part of America where the standard of living sometimes resembles that of Third World countries, Southern Baptists along the Mississippi River hope several new ministries will improve life for residents and help spread the gospel.

Coordinators with the Mississippi River Ministry began last year trying to boost awareness of the region's needs after a U.S. government report suggested churches be involved in self-help efforts, said Tommy Goode, director of church and community ministries for the Arkansas Baptist Convention.

The area encompasses some 4.3 million residents in 127 counties or parishes along or near the Mississippi River in Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi or Louisiana.

Among the government report's findings:

— 75% of employed Delta residents lack basic reading skills and therefore can't be trained for technical jobs.

— About half the 792,000 rental housing units in the Delta region are dilapidated beyond repair.

— 15 counties have infant mor-

talities rates higher than Chile, Cuba, and Malaysia.

"There's an extraordinary — almost Third World — need for human assistance in this area," Goode said.

"You've got people who have been left behind," added Gary Farley, associate director of town and country missions with the Home Mission Board.

"Most people just don't have regular work," he said. "The kind of jobs that poor people on limited education can do have been shipped overseas."

Baptist volunteers could offer a range of services, from literacy missions and medical services to home weatherization and revitalization and food and clothing distribution.

A weekend convocation in Memphis August 7-8 will serve as a kick-off for the ministry as well as improve awareness of the needs for the region, Goode said.

"It's going to be confrontational and we hope that it unsettles us enough to challenge us."

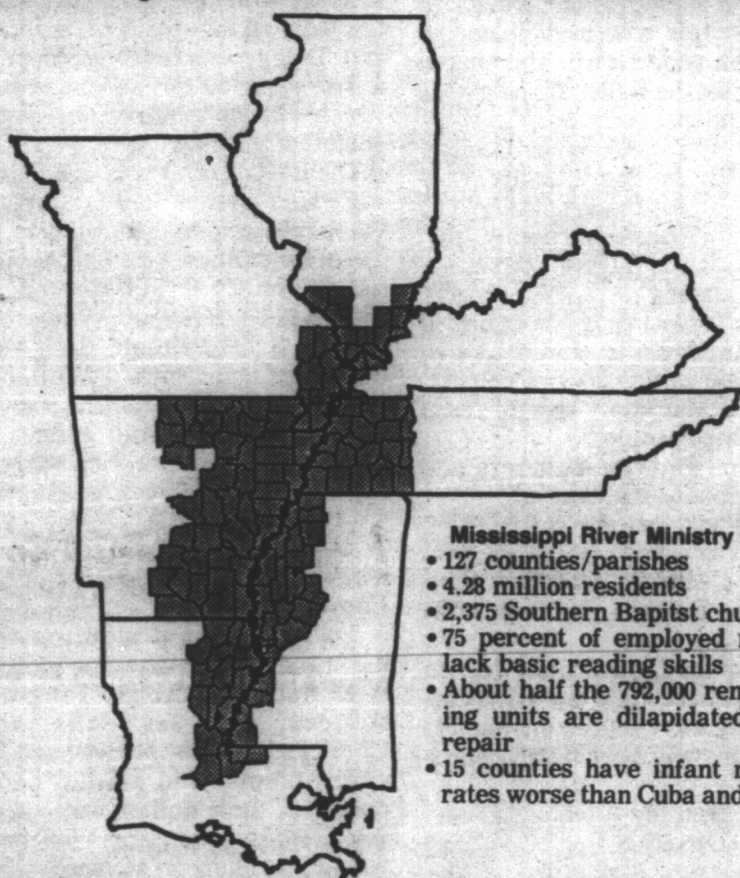
He said churches are a logical resource for community development programs.

"The last two institutions left in a socio-economically deprived area are the schools and the churches," he said. "We're telling people in Arkansas, 'Missions opportunities are right here.'"

Although poverty is a big factor in that region, Farley said the ministries will offer something else.

"The key is to give people hope and, I think, spiritual hope," he said. "It needs to be more than just shipping a bunch of clothes and

(See RIVER on page 13)



Mississippi River Ministry Region

- 127 counties/parishes
- 4.28 million residents
- 2,375 Southern Baptist churches
- 75 percent of employed residents lack basic reading skills
- About half the 792,000 rental housing units are dilapidated beyond repair
- 15 counties have infant mortality rates worse than Cuba and Malaysia

Oklahoma board recommends shift in CP percent, designated funds

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP) — Citing nine straight years of flat growth in Cooperative Program receipts from Oklahoma churches, the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma's board of directors recommended lowering from 44.25 to 42 the percentage of receipts sent on to the Southern Baptist Convention.

Directors also voted to change the method of changing the CP division in the future and to no longer handle funds designated to agencies not supported by the BGCO or SBC.

The recommended percentage change came after months of study by the board's Cooperative Program study committee, which compared records from 1925 to the present, looking at facts and trends.

In the end, the committee determined that without a change, missions work in Oklahoma would be seriously damaged. Bill Merrell, director of missions for Comanche-

Cotton Association, based in Lawton, and committee chairman, said it was a hard decision to make.

William G. Tanner, BGCO executive director-treasurer, said the convention's problems were caused by the oil boom/bust that wreaked havoc on the state's economy. During the boom years, he said CP giving increased 13.8% a year. Since then, in 1983-91, CP giving has risen only 1.94% a year while fixed operating costs have greatly increased.

All three recommendations must be approved by BGCO messengers in November.

Tanner said he felt the recommendation was a fair solution to a tough problem. "We think this is a reasonable position to take," he said. "We will handle only designations specifically designated for our state convention and its work or for the Southern Baptist Convention and its work. Our auditors feel we have serious complications developing that could

require additional personnel to handle the growing number of designation options."

Board member Jarene Robison, member of First Church in Tulsa, said she was afraid the action might cause a backlash from persons sympathetic with the CBF. She said her church had dealt with the problem by agreeing to send funds on to the CBF.

"It does take more work but it was better for the fellowship," Robison said.

Administrative committee chairman Alan Day, pastor of First Church in Edmond, said the committee was sympathetic to those feelings. "We would never tell an autonomous church how it could or should do its business," Day said. "But this body is an autonomous body and must make some good business decisions and some wise decisions."

The change will be implemented by the BGCO over the next few months.



Meltons establish trust fund

Charles Melton, retired director of missions, Newton Association, and Mrs. Melton, pictured, have established a trust fund with the Mississippi Baptist Foundation in memory of his parents. The trust is to be known as the Charles Hubert Sr. and Katherine Montgomery Melton Memorial Trust Fund for the Baptist Children's Village. The interest income on the trust fund that was set up on May 13, 1992, is to be distributed at least annually to the Baptist Children's Village to be used as they see fit. Friends and other persons interested in the purpose of this trust may add to it in any amount at any time through the Baptist Foundation.

Okla. pastor will challenge Lee Porter

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP) — Bob Bender, pastor of First Church in Ada, Okla., will be nominated next month in Indianapolis to serve as registration secretary for the Southern Baptist Convention. He will vie for the position with current registration secretary Lee Porter who has held the job 15 years.

The SBC registration secretary oversees the credentials and tellers committees as well as the messenger registration process.

As a member of this year's credentials committee, Bender will serve with the man he is challenging in the election.

Bender will be nominated by O.S. Hawkins, a former Oklahoma pastor now serving as pastor of First Church in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

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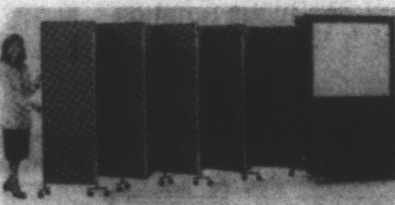
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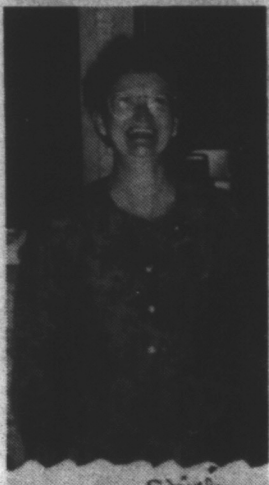
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Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams

Hats off to Shirley!

One of the best sources of information for me has always been the secretaries in the associational offices. Probably more than any



Shirley Massey

other I have called Shirley Massey in the Pascagoula office of the Jackson County Association. Last fall that association honored her for her 25 years of service.

She is representative of all of these secretaries who are of constant help to the Baptist Record.

Surely the Lord gave her many traits she would need in her job — a sense of humor foremost; a cheerful willingness to help others; a friendly, outgoing personality; the talent to win the "fastest typing award" from Leakesville High; a commitment to Christ and to her church. "I would be making more money had I chosen another career," she said, "but satisfaction in this job has outweighed that."

Since Nov. 18, 1966, she has worked with five directors of missions — John Laney, Zeno Wells, Allen Webb, Roger Dorsett, and the current one, Ernest Sadler.

Wells, she said, "came with vision, plans, goals, and a way to reach them." He led the association to build a facility in a place "where a lot of traffic comes and goes." He began new work when the county was growing, and started the Seamen's Center.

Webb, according to Shirley, "made things happen" — another Seamen's Center, an Indian church, Christian social ministries, mission trips, BSU work, a family recreation site, a chaplain's ministry, development of Southern Baptist Black work. Under Dorsett, a Vietnamese ministry began. With Sadler, a ministry to truckers and travellers has gotten underway.

In 25 years, Shirley's co-staffers have included Paul Vandercook, Robert Tate, J. D. Lundy, Cloyd Harjo, Ray Brooks, Clark McMurray, John McBride, David Lee, Eddie Jones, Tho Dang, Bob Storie.

"What is a typical day?" she asked. "Phones, everybody wants their utilities paid, rent paid, buy a bus ticket, food help, can you help, they want everything now. Look up a number, give me directions, type, fold, print, address, meet the people, handle this, would you, could you, listen, listen, listen. You wear many hats in this work."

She was born Shirley Church-

well, one of six children, in Greene County at St. Ellen. Her father died when she was 7.

From Leakesville High School, she was graduated with distinction. "Most Athletic," she lettered in basketball and track. Though she was in school with her husband-to-be, Jimmy Massey, it was not until later he asked her for a date and then stood her up. "Didn't bother me," she remembers. "I just got into my car and went out anyway." They married May 16, 1969. He is a captain with the Pascagoula Police Department.

Her son, Shannon, almost 21, is in the U.S. Marine Corps. "The absolute toughest time of my life," she said, "was when my son left for the Persian Gulf and went to war. It was the most helpless time I have ever experienced, and total dependence upon God to take care of him. The emotional roller coaster was unreal."

Her daughter, Shirell, 17, has completed her junior year at Moss Point High. She plays softball nearly year round; works at McDonald's; and plans to be a dental hygienist. "I thank God," Shirley said, "they both accepted Christ when he touched their hearts."

At Escatawpa Church, she teaches Sunday School, is youth sponsor, and sings in the choir. "Working with the youth takes a lot of time and energy but the results are most rewarding. Ray Campbell, our pastor, and Jim McEachern, our music/youth director, are the most compassionate, caring God-called men I have ever worked with."

Most rewarding time in her work? "The beginning of a Southern Baptist Black church in Moss Point, and the calling of Eddie Jones as pastor, and the beginning of a language work with the Vietnamese and the call of Tho Dang. Both these men are unique in their work with their people. Working with Tho Dang has been a tremendous experience. He has a genuine love for the Lord. He loves and is concerned for his people."

"I have seen great men come and go in this work. A lot of them are not aware of things that I have had the privilege to share about them with others. I see them continue to be used of God in pastorates, foreign mission fields, home mission fields, as volunteers, etc. I am delighted when I have been able to say I worked with them in Jackson County."

"I try to live every day to its fullest potential. That doesn't mean that I don't have down days. I love life itself and try to make the best of each day the Lord gives me. This has been a very rewarding ministry."

Thank you, Shirley, for that ministry. The ripples of your influence have reached far. Thank you for always going the second mile to find answers to my questions.

Thursday, June 4, 1992

Will Furman become secular? School says "no;" others wonder

By Christopher Schwarz

GREENVILLE, S.C. (ABP) — Now that Furman University is no longer affiliated with the South Carolina Baptist Convention, some Baptists say the school is heading down the road to becoming a secular university.

"If Furman doesn't become secular, it will probably be the first in history not to," said Tim Head, a South Carolina pastor.

But Furman President John Johns said his school can keep close ties with its Baptist heritage, even though as of May 15 the school no longer is attached to the state Baptist convention legally or financially.

"I would hope that we never become secular," Johns said. "The board of trustees...adopted a statement of purpose last Wednesday stating that we would remain Christian and that we would remain true to our Baptist heritage."

It will be business as usual, Johns said.

"I can assure that I'm not going

to change any rules or regulations or any of the guidelines for the hiring of faculty," he said. "The only difference is that Furman will control its own board."

Johns said independence from the convention was necessary to ensure the university does not fall victim to a takeover by fundamentalist Baptists. Similar fears were cited last year when Baylor University in Waco, Texas, sought and won the freedom to elect its own trustees.

But Head, who was chairman of a now-defunct committee charged with taking Furman to court, said the research of his committee shows that schools that split from their religious heritage eventually become secular.

Head cited articles named "The Decline and Fall of the Christian College, I and II" by James Turnstead Burtchae, a professor of theology at Notre Dame.

Those articles review the history of Vanderbilt, Brown, and Emory universities and conclude that

schools that reject their Christian roots become non-religious colleges, Head said.

"Professor Burtchae concludes that no denominational institution which severs its ties with its sponsoring denomination has ever, after a sufficient period of time, remained Christian, not to mention denominational," Head said.

Schwarz is a staff writer for the GREENVILLE (N.C.) NEWS. This story is reprinted with permission.

Draper announces restructure of BSSB senior executive team

By Linda Lawson

NASHVILLE (BP)—A restructuring of the Sunday School Board's senior executive team and formation of a transition team to implement further changes were announced May 18 by President James T. Draper Jr.

Instead of a president and three executive vice presidents overseeing operations, finance and administration, and corporate planning, research and denominational relations, Draper said he will recommend to trustees in August a restructured senior executive team including himself and four others with titles yet to be decided.

Gene Mims, executive vice president for corporate planning, research and denominational relations, will lead the church growth and programs area. Michael Arrington, executive vice president for operations, will head corporate services. E.V. King, executive vice president for finance and administration, will lead finance and administration.

Charles Wilson, assistant vice president for business, will become a member of the senior executive team and will head trade and retail markets.

"We told trustees when they approved the senior executive team level we might expand that. What we're actually doing is expanding it by one," Draper said.

The 10-year trend in total sales of board products and services has been flat, Draper said. In the last five years, unit sales of all church literature periodicals combined have declined 4.43%.

"We are going to see the greatest changes in technology, in publish-

ing and electronic communication in the history of the world in the next 10 years. We have got to be ready to respond to that and to move within those changes," he said.

Lawson writes for BSSB.

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Moscow: Christ and Baptist work are alive

By Tim Nicholas

In Moscow Baptist Church, after Easter, members hung a lighted sign that says "Christ Lives." But that was not the only place in Moscow a person could see words about Jesus. Across the thoroughfares in that Russian city of nine million, during the Easter season, were banners proclaiming "Christ truly has arisen."

In many ways, Russia is wide open for the gospel. In other ways it is not. A group of Mississippi Baptists recently had the opportunity to see firsthand a bit of life and how the gospel is spread in that former Soviet headquarters city.

These Mississippians traveled there to help with Project Brotherhood, a program designed to help distribute tons of U.S.D.A. commodity foods—rice, flour, powdered milk, and lentils. The Baptist World Alliance asked the Brotherhood Commission which asked the various state Brotherhood Departments to find the volunteers.

The five were Jerry Massey, pastor of First Church, Durant; Don Tew, pastor of Shuqualak Church; Lee Castle, pastor of First Church, Macon; and Jim Didlake and Tim

Nicholas of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board staff. A second team is scheduled for July. They are Ronnie Ferrell, Isola; Creslyn White, Brandon; Harry Boozer, Brandon; Charles Thornton, Crystal Springs; and George Smith, pastor of Ecru Church.

The gospel message is being heard openly now, according to Baptists there. Before the fall of Communism and before glasnost, people being baptized into Moscow Baptist Church had to be approved by the KGB, the Soviet intelligence service, says George Lozuk, Southern Baptist missionary, who, with his wife Veda Rae, and Mel and Nancy Skinner, comprise the missionary force in Russia.

Two other Southern Baptist couples serve as missionaries in the former Soviet Union—Mississippians Dan and Libby Panter are in Minsk in Byelorussia; and Stephen and Marilyn Haines are in Kiev in the Ukraine.

And previously, children were not allowed to attend worship services. School children were taught atheism "until a couple of years ago," says Lozuk. "The result is

the younger crowd has fallen by the wayside."

Now, no one is looking over the shoulders of Christians. And how things have changed. "There is a great curiosity as to 'if atheism is not the correct thing, what is?'" says Lozuk. His father was from Minsk, but left before the 1917 Revolution that ushered in 75 years of oppression and official exclusion of religion.

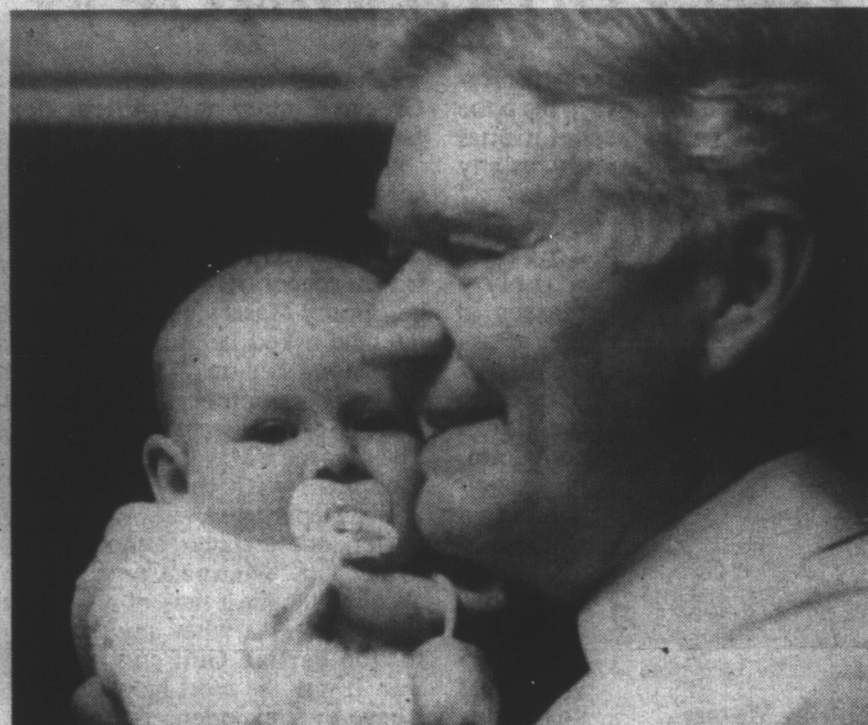
Lozuk says that people are beginning to investigate religion and the public schools are requesting teachers for the Bible. So Moscow Baptist Church is sending its Sunday School teachers into the public schools in Moscow to teach the Bible.

Mel and Nancy Skinner's Russian language teacher, Julia Solovjova, a new Christian herself, says that Russians are not rushing to be Christians because of their new freedoms. They are not



I was invited to dinner at the home of a Christian family who wanted Missionary George Lozuk to say a prayer for their three month old daughter, Milana. The church isn't used to baby dedication services like we have because only a short time ago, children weren't allowed in church. Kostia and Tanya Strillets, and her parents, who live with them, hosted a dinner for friends around the prayer. It was a magnificent feast with potato salad, pickled tomatoes, stuffed eggs,

steak, chicken and rice, fried fish, chicken aspic, blini, and a delicious boiled fruit drink. Blini is a pancake with meat inside. It was especially good. Before Milana went to sleep, George prayed for her upbringing in this Christian home and then Tanya brought out her violin and Kostia his guitar. We sat around the table singing (me listening) to Christian songs. It was Baptist hospitality at its finest.



ready to have someone to be lord of their lives, she told Denny and Jenny Quinn, volunteer coordinators from Missouri. A Christian witness, Julia said, needs to be a Christian lifestyle that can be observed by others.

But this does not mean that Russians will not listen to the gospel message. Two of the Russian volunteers who helped sack flour in the warehouse, members of Moscow Baptist Church, witnessed to three employees of the warehouse where the Baptists were storing their commodities.

As Zina Klimkina spoke to the

workers, her niece Inna, said that the Communists told bad stories about the Baptists. She said they would say the Baptists would kill their children. One of the workers returned to our warehouse store-room to get Bibles.

No one refused to accept gospel tracts, not even the kids who hawk souvenirs around Red Square. In a flea market where could be found anything from Gorbachev nesting dolls to brazier-roasted meat (which was delicious), a woman accepted a tract from a Mississippian. "Is this about God?" she

asked. "Yes, about Jesus Christ," was the answer. She nodded her acceptance.

In that flea market the Mississippians met with representatives of three other evangelical groups from America, showing the proliferation of Christian work already going on in Russia.

Missionary Lozuk says that "Groups come in, pass out tracts, sing in a choir, make a movie, and go home." He says that that is not the Southern Baptist way of missions. "We say we are here to help you do what you want done," says Lozuk.

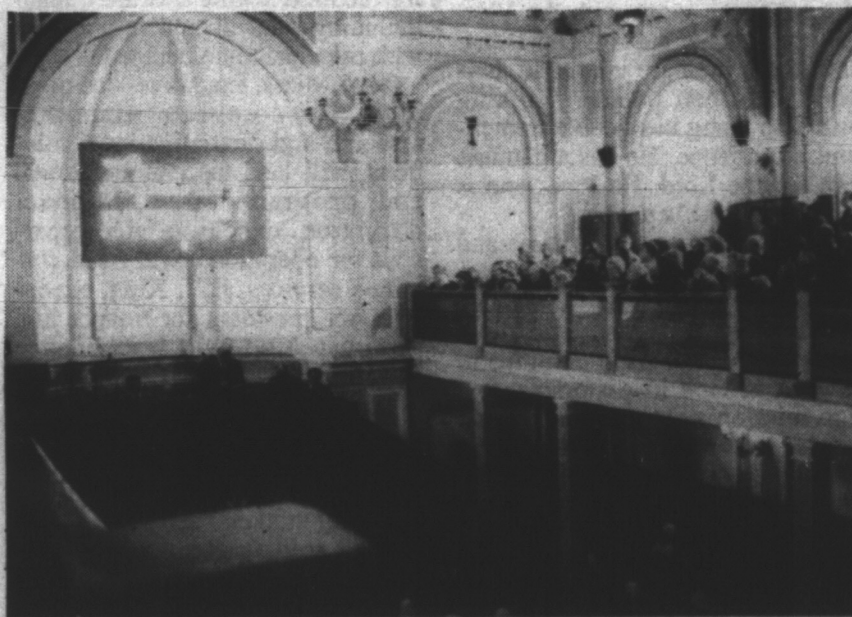
His first six months after he arrived in February of 1991, were in explaining to the various Baptist unions of the former Soviet Union who Southern Baptists are, what is the Foreign Mission Board, and what is our purpose.

"We have several basics," says Lozuk. "We work strictly with the local church and its organizations. Their goals are our goals and we try to understand things through their eyes."

Two of the commitments, besides slowly building a missionary team in the former Soviet Union, are to help the seminary and help with publishing religious materials.

A seminary is already open in Odessa and one is slated to begin in Moscow this October. Robert Tucker, acting president of the Canadian Baptist Seminary will be a consultant for seminaries and religious education in the CIS, according to Lozuk.

The Foreign Mission Board's commitment includes helping with teachers for the seminary, and for funds for construction of buildings. (See MOSCOW on page 13)



We went to Sunday services at Moscow Baptist Church. The only thing I understood in the two hour program was the tune from "Up from the Grave He Arose," which was one of about six songs from the choir. There were three sermons and a poem. We only went to one of the services. They have three on Sunday and a couple of others during the week — each one a standing room only crowd. The sanctuary is only 45 by 45 feet. Someone asked why there are so many older women. One of the pastors explained that a lot of the men went to jail, others went to war, and if it weren't for the old women, there would be no church.



Actually walking around in Red Square was likely my strangest experience. This, the centerpiece of Communism, adjacent to the Kremlin, the seat of the former Communist government, is now a beautiful tourist attraction. The empty St. Basil's Cathedral, the Kremlin clock tower, GUM, the state department store, and Lenin's tomb, where we filed silently past his body, quickly, no cameras allowed, no talking, and no hands allowed in pockets. They are still afraid someone will try to do damage to his remains. On Peace Day, we heard an American military band playing "Stars and Stripes Forever" in the center of Red Square. One of the Soviet heroes of World War II told Jim Didlake, "Once we were enemies, now we are friends. Can we be friends forever?" (Photos by Tim Nicholas)

HOUSE TOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

June 4, 1992

HOUSE TOPS is a supplement to the Baptist Record and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

ZIMBABWE EXPERIENCE

By Wallace Norman
Houston, Miss.

Making the 10,000 (approx.) mile January mission trip to Zimbabwe as a layman's assistant to Rev. Leroy Brewer was an unforgettable experience. I left home with the sharp desire to find true mission work, and hopefully to make some contribution to spreading the Gospel myself.

A lasting impression that I have of that trip is my appreciation of the 65 permanent missionaries that the Southern Baptist Convention has in that country. Our team was there for a short period of time, but we experienced many adjustments that had to be made in our living standards. Those dedicated missionaries who serve there faithfully year after year should receive our prayers and full support.

Two missionaries that Rev. Brewer and I worked most closely with were Barbara and Jerry Schleiff. They endeared themselves to us as we observed their dedication. Jerry teaches in the Baptist Seminary where native students are taught to minister to their own people. The work done in that school breathes life into the mission effort in that country.

The Baptist publishing house in Zimbabwe is a great asset to the Christian work in all of that area. Not only do they publish materials for Baptist work, but for other Christian groups as well. As a member of another denomination (United Methodist), I felt a lot of respect for that missionary attitude.

Our short days on this mission field were spent in door to door witnessing and inviting the people to the church services. My heart was touched as I saw great numbers of the young people (14 and younger) come to church for no reason but to hear the gospel preached and the Bible truths explained by Rev. Brewer. Their reverence and attentiveness in the one and one-half hour services made me know that the preaching was not in vain.

From my observations and experiences in Zimbabwe, I believe this mission effort is underlining Paul's words in Acts 3:6

"Paul" (or the Baptists missionaries) "planted"
"Appolos" (or short term mission teams) "watered";
"But God gives the increase"

AMEN HT

This is one of a series of testimonials from people who have traveled to Zimbabwe to participate in the Partnership project Mississippi Baptists have begun with that African country. Other testimonials are scheduled to follow.

The Associational Officers Interpretation Meeting was held at the Alta Woods Baptist Church, Jackson, on May 12, 1992. At that time the new Area Coordinators were presented, and the day was spent in praying and planning together on how to bring about a mighty network of prayer among all the churches of Mississippi.

The Area Coordinators are: Rev. Ervin Brown, P.O. Box 682, Herndon, MS 38632, Area I; Dr. Ron Kirkland, P.O. Box 540, Amory, MS

BOLD MISSION PRAYER THRUST AREA COORDINATORS NAMED

38821-0540, Area II; Rev. Gary Blair, P.O. Box 554, Isola, MS 38754-0554, Area III; Miss Mary Frank Kirkpatrick, P.O. Box 94, Noxapater, MS 39346, Area IV;

Rev. Mike Pennock, 309 South College Street, Brandon, MS 39042, Area V; Rev. John Sharp, 518 Airport Road, Forest, MS 39074, Area VI; Rev. and Mrs. Dolton Haggan, Rt. 2, Box 509, Crystal Springs, MS 39059, Area VII; Mrs. Anne McGraw, 15 Bay Circle, Laurel, MS 39440, Area VIII; Mrs. Rebecca Williams, 824 Graveline Road, Gautier, MS 39553, Area IX.

The Associational and the Area Coordinators are available to help in establishing prayer ministries in local churches. HT

PUT THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR

9

Thursday
July
1992

JULY 1992
S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14 15 16 17 18
19 20 21 22 23 24 25
26 27 28 29 30 31

9

8:00 Get substitutes
8:30 Cancel staff meeting
9:00 Call Judy to run car pool
9:30
10:00
10:30
11:00
11:30
12:00
12:30
1:00
1:30 Legal Issues for Directors
2:00 Newsletter carry
2:30 Time Management
3:00 Staff Meeting Help
3:30 Question and answer time
4:00 Sand, sun and surf
4:30
5:00

Church Weekday
Directors Retreat
at Gulfshore Baptist
Assembly
July 9-11

For more information, call David Morrow at 968-3800, ext 3887

Mississippi Baptist

1992 Students



GLEN BENNETT
Holmes
Canada



LORI CLARK
Miss. State
Canada



BECKY COURTNEY
Hinds
Canada



JENNY CRIGLER
Miss. State
Canada



PAM GUNTARP
William Carey
Canada



MELANIE GRONER
Miss. State
Canada



ERIK HOLDER
Jones
Canada



DANIEL HYAMS
Miss. State
Canada



JAMIE JUSTICE
Miss. College
Canada



LIZ ALLEN
Miss. State
Nevada



APRIL ANDREWS
Blue Mountain
Wyoming



CLAY ANTHONY
Miss. College
Wyoming



SHANE ARD
Univ. Miss.
Montana



HEATHER ARNOLD
Blue Mountain
Iowa



RUSSELL BARNES
Univ. Miss.
California



BRAD BEN
Miss. St.
The North



KIM CAGLE
Holmes
Montana



DAVID CARLEY
Univ. Miss.
California



GEORGE CARTER
Holmes
Wyoming



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Blue Mountain
New York



JENNIFER COLBURN
M.U.W.
Florida



KEITH CONNER
Miss. State
Florida



BOBBY D
Jones
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CHARLIE GRIFFITH
Miss. College
Kansas/Nebraska



AMY HARRIS
Miss. State
Wyoming



SUSAN HEIDEN
U.S.M.
California



KIM HERRINGTON
Miss. College
Kentucky



TANYA HOLLY
Holmes
California



STEPHANIE HOUSTON
Northeast
California



PAULA HUNT
Holmes
California



TARA ISHEE
Jones
Wyoming



CHARLES JACKSON
Delta State
California



JAN LAIRD
Miss. State
The Northwest



KIM LAWSON
Miss. State
Montana



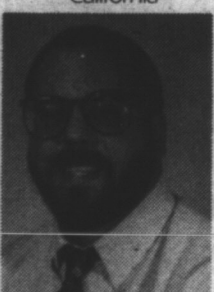
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Itavamba
New England



JOEY LOTT
Northwest
The Northwest



JENNIFER MALONE
East Central
Nevada



JEFF MANN
William Carey
The Northwest



ROD MARTIN
Co-Lin
Kansas/Nebraska



KIMBERLY MASSEY
Blue Mountain
Kansas/Nebraska



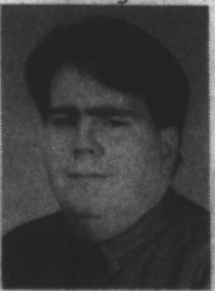
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West Virginia



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Alaska



JOY SEWELL
Northwest
Kentucky



JASON SHANKLE
Gulf Coast
New England



KIM SIMMONS
Delta State
Kansas/Nebraska



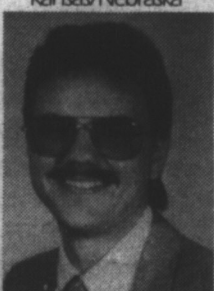
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Wyoming



MICHAEL SMITH
Delta State
Missouri



MONICA SMITH
U.S.M.
California



CHRIS STEWART
Delta State
Maryland



BECKY STIEDLE
Delta State
Nevada

ist Student Union

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Delta State
Canada



JANA RAYBORN
Pearl River
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Canada



MELANIE ROGERS
Miss. State
Israel



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Kazakhstan



MISSY SMITH
Miss. Delta
Kazakhstan



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Clarke
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CHRIS TWILLEY
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Kazakhstan



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VONDA BOUNDS
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Miss. College
Wyoming



CARMEN BRELAND
Jones
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Miss. College
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Jones
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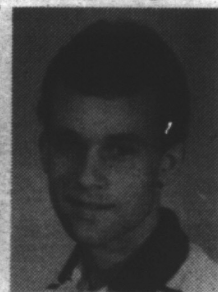
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North Dakota



STEPHANIE GARLAND
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JODY GOUSSET
Miss. College
Colorado



BRENDA GRAY
Univ. Miss.
Wyoming



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JUDY JENKINS
Hinds
Colorado



SUZAN JOBLIN
M.U.W.
Kansas/Nebraska



DAVID JOHNSON
Miss. State
Colorado



JENNY JONES
Jones
Hawaii



HUMPHREY JU
Delta State
California



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GRETCHEN KLEEB
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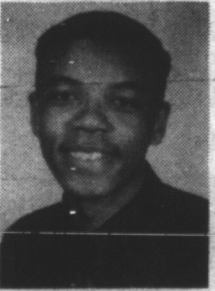
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HEIDI MILNER
Miss. State
New Mexico



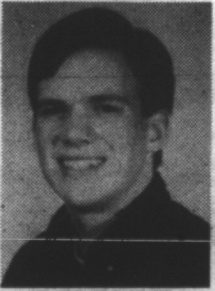
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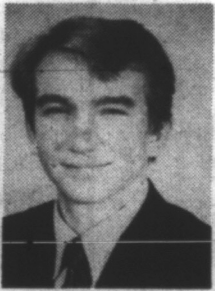
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Florida



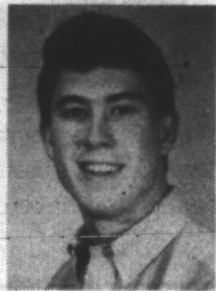
KIM PAES
Jones
New Mexico



JAKE ROUDKOVSKI
Blue Mountain
The Northwest



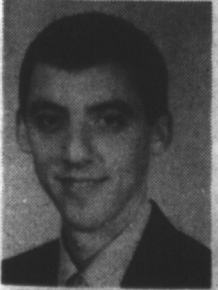
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JASON RUTHERFORD
Miss. College
The Northwest



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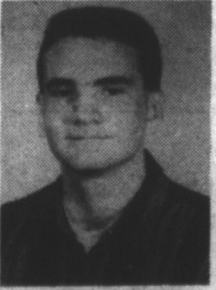
PHILLIP THORNTON
Delta State
Colorado



KRISTIN ULSTEEN
U.S.M.
Florida



MACKIE WELLS
U.S.M.
California



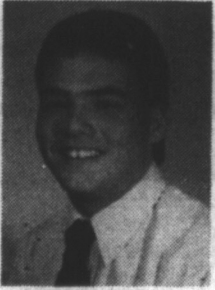
DAVID WILKINSON
Miss. State
The Northwest



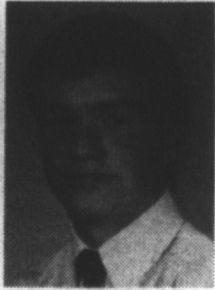
BROCK WILLIAMS
Miss. State
Minn/Wisconsin



MICKY WILLIAMS
Gulf Coast
Wyoming



TREY WOOTON
Hinds
Montana



JAY WYATT
Co-Lin
Wyoming

Peggy Huey: CHAMPION

by Debbie Baird Buie



The Cooperative
Program

Peggy Huey has just returned to Hattiesburg from Zimbabwe, where Mississippi Baptists have a partnership with that country's Baptist union. There she witnessed first hand how her church's Cooperative Program gifts are being put to God's use. "I saw how the Cooperative Program works and I came back convicted to do better and more to promote increased giving," she said.

It was through her involvement in Woman's Missionary Union that Huey first learned about the Cooperative Program. Learning about Southern Baptist missions and how missions depends on those gifts burdened her to accept the position of Cooperative Program champion in her church. It was a natural progression for her.

At First Baptist, Hattiesburg, Huey has led in Cooperative Program emphases during the months of October and April. "We handed out a lot of materials we got from the Mississippi Baptist Stewardship Office to make our church family more aware. And we also gave out materials through our age-level missions organizations," she said.

Huey is a homemaker, who with her husband Harry, is "retired," and they know how far a dollar goes these days. The former businesswoman also knows how tempting it is for churches to cut Cooperative Program giving in their budgets or vote not to increase the percentage. That's why she believes it is so important to educate all church members and encourage them to increase Cooperative Program gifts.

"I think every member of every church should know what the Cooperative Program does because it makes a difference in our world. It isn't something just one person can do, but together we can accomplish a lot." **HT**

Zimbabwe Mission Requests Speaker

The missionaries that comprise the Zimbabwe Mission and the National Convention leaders are requesting a speaker for their annual convention August 14-16, 1992.

This request was not among those made for the 1992 year, but has come about because of the quality of Mississippi leaders that have participated in various projects.

An appeal is made in this general fashion for perhaps God is already dealing with a pastor or congregation about a special service opportunity.

Anyone interested in responding should contact Bill Hardy, Coordinator of the Mississippi/Zimbabwe Partnership, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 or 601-968-3800. As with all of these projects, the volunteers will be responsible for their own expenses. **HT**

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- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ministry of Baptist Deacons | <input type="checkbox"/> Church Council Handbook |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pastoring the Single-Staff Church | <input type="checkbox"/> Being God's People |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Church Officer Committee Guidebook | <input type="checkbox"/> Big Help for Small Youth Groups |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Secretary's Role in Ministry | <input type="checkbox"/> Work of the Minister of Youth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> We're Family, Helps for the Small Membership Church | <input type="checkbox"/> Called to Stay, Keys to a Longer Pastorate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reviving the Plateaued Church | <input type="checkbox"/> Authentic Worship: Exalting God and Reaching People |

Name _____ Church Position _____
Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
Church Name _____ Association Name _____
Church Phone No. _____ Home Phone No. _____



**Remember
to send in your report by August 15!**
(Includes projects from August, 1991-August, 1992)

Each year the Brotherhood Department is responsible for reporting to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board the number of people in Mississippi who were involved in volunteer missions, where they went, etc. Please help us by reporting your church and/or association involvement. Complete and return to us one of the forms below for each project in which your people participated (individuals, youth, music, adults, etc).

VOLUNTEER MISSION REPORT

MAIL TO:

VOLUNTEER MISSION REPORT

Brotherhood Department • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530

☐ Church Project ☐ Association Project ☐ Individual Project

Church/Association _____
Project Coordinator _____ Phone _____
Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

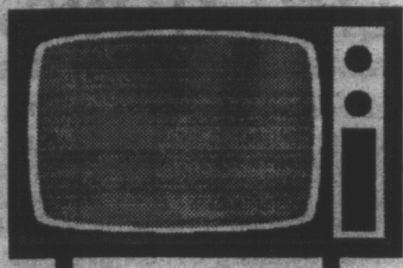
PROJECT INFORMATION

TYPE OF PROJECT: ☐ Community ☐ In-State ☐ U.S. ☐ Foreign
Project Location _____ Dates _____
No. People in Your Group _____

TYPE OF WORK ACCOMPLISHED:

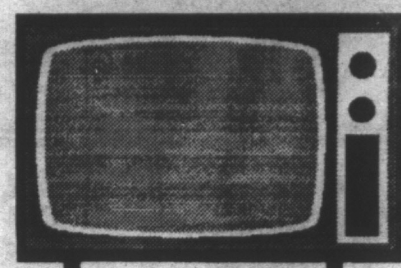
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Construction | <input type="checkbox"/> V.B.S. | <input type="checkbox"/> Survey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evangelism | <input type="checkbox"/> Bible Clubs | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (list) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical/Dental | |

HOUSE OF GODS



Is TV the new family altar?

By Lacy Thompson,
associate editor, Louisiana
BAPTIST MESSAGE



Television's control over families

Countering TV's effects on children through human interaction is what media activist Sue Lockwood Summers recommends. "Personal involvement is what kids are looking for, is what human beings are looking for," said Summers, who is a library media specialist for an elementary school in Littleton, Colo. "They may fill their time with hours of electronic media, but it will never be as significant as one human being offering time with a child."

The need to counteract the impact of television on the newest generation is painfully evident. Several recent studies indicate that unchecked and indiscriminate television viewing can promote a range of unhealthy behaviors and attitudes (see related article).

Most parents know well the power of the tube. After all, how much of a child's conversation relates to television? How often is a child overheard singing a commercial or program theme? How many times is television in the middle of the struggle to get kids to bed or do chores?

Comments from many parents confirm what many specialists are saying: TV is out of control in the home.

"If my daughter gets up too late to watch television before she goes to school, she pitches a fit. I think she'd rather skip breakfast than morning cartoons. Well, I know she would."

"I try to get my son to read or even play a game sometimes, but he would rather watch television, even when there's nothing on he particularly wants to see."

"I wish I could find a way to blow the thing up."

Southern Baptists long ago recognized the power of television. At their national convention in 1977, they passed a resolution that warned, "If we do not control television, television will control us."

But awareness has not resulted

in action, Summers and other experts say. A recent national survey of elementary students found a majority of them have no television viewing limits in the home. "I think the television experience becomes such a hold on kids not because of kids but because of parents," said Summers, who teaches a graduate course for educators on how media affects children. She also is starting an organization and a book on the subject.

"Parents allow television to become a mainstay in kids' lives," said Summers, noting author Marie Winn first issued that assessment in her 1977 book, *The Plug-in Drug*. "They don't do it on purpose and they don't do it with any harmful reasoning. It just happens very quietly and very insidiously."

"And I think it's time parents took back the family time."

Doing that is not an easy task, Summers admitted. By the time the typical child heads off to kindergarten, he or she has watched up to 7,000 hours of television. But in a country that has more televisions than toilets, she said, Christians and their churches must try to win the family back.

Television can work against the very idea of family, she said, by fostering isolation over togetherness. Since most homes have more than one set, TV viewing often is done alone.

When TV presents a child with an unfiltered view of the world, its values can undermine the family, Summers contended. Television bombards children with messages that often are in conflict with what parents want them to learn, she noted.

For instance, the commercial world of television is quick to promote a materialistic view of life that says happiness and success are found in things. "And that keeps us from understanding what true

happiness and success are," Summers said. "That world view colors everything, including our Christianity."

Churches should get involved in helping families deal with TV's influence, Summers said. Church is a natural place to offer conferences and retreats on the use of television and on the role of parenting, she explained.

Who controls the TV? Summers asked a group of parents recently in Denver. "Who sets the standards in the home — parents or the TV? Who raises the kids? Who gets to answer questions like: what is acceptable behavior? What's attractive? What's normal? What's funny? and What's a family all about? These are critical questions. If the church doesn't help parents, then who will?"

Turn it off, Summers would say, and families find something else is there — each other. That personal presence, she says, is the fundamental key to winning the television battle.

"I'm really not much of a doom-sayer," she said. "I truly believe that one person still can have a tremendous influence on a child, even though that child is bombarded by thousands of hours of electronic media messages."

"I still think human beings respond to a personal touch and a personal involvement in their lives. That personal involvement is what kids are looking for, is what human beings are looking for. They may fill their time with hours of electronic media, but it will never be as significant as one human being offering time with a child."

"So we have to reset our priorities and ask why we had kids? Did we have a kid so that kid would be the first American to have 50,000 hours of television time in a lifetime? Probably not."

TV misuse can harm children, doctors say

(ABP) — Children watch too much television, and what they watch can be harmful. That's the conclusion reached by psychologists and pediatricians in separate studies on the effects and use of TV viewing.

A major report from the American Psychological Association cites the domineering and often disturbing impact television has on modern society. The five-year study, titled "Big World, Small Screen: The Role of Television in American Society," was conducted by a team of nine psychologists.

Television inherently is neither good nor bad, the report said. It can have positive or negative effects on individuals, depending on what is viewed and how it is viewed.

For instance, it can teach children academic and social skills, the report noted. It can help adults gain knowledge. It can provide a sense of contact with a modern world.

On the other hand, it also can lead to antisocial behavior, stereotyping, poor grades, a loss of self-esteem, and a breakdown of healthy family interaction, the national report added.

Among the report's findings:

— **Pervasiveness.** The average American child watches television three hours a day. Boys watch more than girls. Viewing most often begins in infancy, when parents use the television to quiet babies. Childhood viewing peaks at about four hours a day at age 12 and provides a backdrop for growing up.

— **Stereotyping.** Television devalues and stereotypes social groups, such as women and minorities. Exposure to such messages increases stereotyped beliefs and attitudes.

— **Sex.** Implied sexual activity

on television most often occurs between unmarried couples with little emotional commitment to one another.

— **Violence.** Prime-time television includes five-to-six acts of violence each hour. Saturday morning children's programs have up to 25 such acts per hour. The average child sees 8,000 murders and more than 100,000 assorted acts of violence by the time he or she leaves elementary school. Such exposure can cause aggressive behavior and foster the belief that aggression is the way to resolve conflicts.

— **Sexual violence.** Watching sexually related violence leads to an increased acceptance of rape and other forms of sexual violence and can lead to antisocial values and behavior.

— **Reality.** The average child is exposed to 20,000 commercials per year, and children under 7 have difficulty distinguishing commercials from programs.

The psychologists called for a national television policy to promote quality programming and protect persons from the harmful effects of television.

The psychologists' findings are echoed in another recent report from the American Academy of Pediatrics. Long-term television viewing is one cause for violent and aggressive behavior in children and is a significant contributor to childhood obesity, the report said.

The 13-year study noted Americans spend an average of seven years of their lives in front of the television, even though they view the activity as mindless, boring and addictive. In essence, watching television made the study participants feel worse instead of better and cut into meaningful family time.

(See TV'S HARM on page 13)

How parents can reclaim their families from TV

How can families gain control of the television and, in turn, perhaps the family? Specialists advocate several proactive measures:

The first step, experts say, is to evaluate the situation. Many families may not even be aware of the influence television has on them.

Such families can keep a record of their television viewing for a week, or set up a temporary no-television period and monitor the effects.

Families should pay attention to the place of television in their lives. Where is the family set located? How central is it? How accessible? How often is it on

when no one is watching? How often does it stay on during dinner? How often are other activities eliminated or restructured to make time for television viewing?

The second step is to set some rules and guidelines. The key in this area, specialists say, is for parents to realize they are more powerful than the television. Sources offer numerous ways to gain such control:

— **Be selective.** Use a videocassette recorder to tape appropriate programs that then can be viewed at the parents' discretion.

According to the Christian Life Commission, people should ask themselves ques-

tions about the programs they watch: Will watching this program represent responsible Christian stewardship for me? Will I be a better person for having watched this program? Is this a program that encourages morality or immorality?

— **Set up a weekly no-television night.** "It may not even be a night

to start," said media activist Sue Lockwood Summers of Littleton, Colo. "It may be a no-television hour. But it's something where the family says, 'We are an important entity and we care about each other.'"

— **Set daily limits on the amount of television family members can watch.** Most observers agree one-to-two hours a day is plenty for children. "There is no right that children have when they are born on this planet that says they are entitled to a certain amount of television," Summers insists.

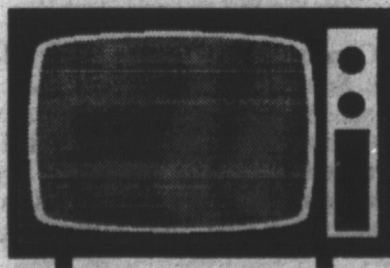
— **Set viewing guidelines,** such as no television until homework or chores are done, no television on school nights, no commercial tele-

vision, or no isolated television viewing.

Monitor children's viewing to make sure what they are watching is appropriate and to be available to help them process what they are viewing. This is especially important in helping children understand the effect of commercials.

— **Promote alternate recreational, cultural and religious activities.** Summers suggests using what she called an "imagination station," a box of non-television activities children can do while parents are busy with other activities, such as cooking dinner. In that way, tele-

(See RECLAIM on page 13)



Staff changes



Allred

New Hope Church, Gulfport, has called Clifford E. Allred of Gulfport as minister of music. The Birmingham, Ala., native is a graduate of Troy State University and New Orleans Seminary.



Wilkins

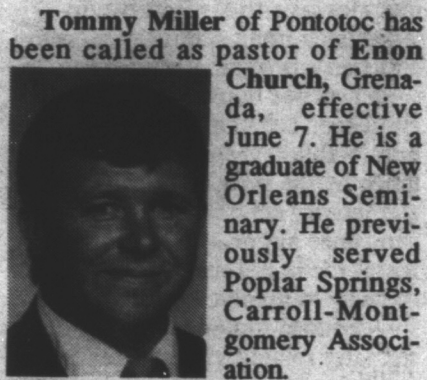
First Church, Holly Springs, has called Erik Wilkins of Bowling Green, Ky., to be minister of education. He will be on the field June 1. Thad A. Moore is pastor.

C. Reed Dicken Jr. has resigned from Ebenezer Church, Attala County, effective May 24, 1992. He and his wife Charline will reside at their home in the Ethel community. Dicken has pastored churches in Attala, Yazoo, and Tallahatchie associations. He is available for pulpit supply, health permitting.

World missions rally yields missions offering

The world missions rally in Booneville resulted in an unusual event — an offering for foreign, home, and state missions in the amount of \$918 was collected.

John Jacobs, missionary emeritus, and Harris Counce, director of missions, Prentiss Association, planned and coordinated the event.



Miller

Tommy Miller of Pontotoc has been called as pastor of Enon Church, Grenada, effective June 7. He is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary. He previously served Poplar Springs, Carroll-Montgomery Association.

Homecomings

Liberty (Carroll-Montgomery): June 7; 10:45 a.m.; Lewis Fitzgerald, pastor, speaker; dinner on grounds; afternoon singing.

Center Hill, Hamilton: June 7; 11 a.m.; Norris Garner, Hot Springs, Ark., guest speaker; covered dish at noon; singing, 1 p.m.; The Pounders Family, Caledonia, guest singers; 65th annual Memorial-Decoration-Homecoming service; James M. Towery, pastor

Woodhaven, Ocean Springs: June 7; 11 a.m.; Allen Webb, Pascagoula, guest speaker; dinner in fellowship hall, noon; Tracy Martin, pastor.

Leaf River, Louin: June 7; 11 a.m.; Larry Duncan, Pelahatchie, dinner in fellowship hall, noon; singing, 1 p.m.; The Duncan Sisters, Pelahatchie, guest singers; cemetery association meeting, 2 p.m.; Anthony Chuter, pastor.

New Hope (Lafayette): June 7; lunch served at noon; singing in the afternoon; Troy Defer, pastor.

Goodhope, Purvis: June 7; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; services, 11 a.m.; Carl Estes, pastor, speaker; dinner in fellowship hall, noon; singing in afternoon featuring Madden Family, Dewease Boy's and the Country Echoes.

Coila (Carroll): June 7; 169th anniversary; homecoming and revival; V. L. Montgomery, Saline, La., former pastor, message; dinner in fellowship hall; The Gospel Edition of Iuka will sing afterwards; Wilton Neal, Carrollton, song leader; William D. Blount, pastor.

Union (Lincoln): June 14; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner served; afternoon singing; James Case presiding; Ron Simpson, pastor.

Washington, Washington: June 7; 42nd year; services, 9:45 a.m.; Robert Jones, former pastor, message; Lowery Herrington, former minister of music, music; Kenneth Mooney, former minister of music and youth, special music in morning service; "Quiet Understanding" in afternoon concert

Laurel Hill (Neshoba): June 14; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; E. C. Tucker, guest speaker; dinner in fellowship hall, noon; afternoon singing; Wayne Griffith, pastor.

County Line, Mendenhall: June 14; Billy Ingram, former pastor, preaching; services, 10:45 a.m.; dinner on grounds; singing in afternoon.

Travis Murray receives RA Award of Merit

Travis Murray, 42, of Amory is one of 16 persons who will accept the Award of Merit presented by the Brotherhood Commission's International Legion of Royal Ambassador Leaders during the National Brotherhood Breakfast in Indianapolis June 10. The Award of Merit is the highest RA leadership award given by the Brotherhood Commission.

Murray serves as RA counselor/director for First Church, Amory, and as an RA area coordinator. He is a computer programmer and accountant.

Southern graduates 240 students

Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., awarded 240 degrees in its commencement exercises on May 22. Among those were three Mississippians receiving masters' degrees. They were Gary Wayne Adams, Jackson; David W. Compere; and Paul Ford Knight.

"Nothing cures insomnia like the realization that it's time to get up." — A. Jones

Revival dates

Everett, Mendenhall: June 7-12; Marvin Cain, Bremen, Ala., evangelist; Trent Sullivan, Everett Church, music; services, 7 p.m.; William A. McWilliams, pastor.

Concord (Smith): June 7-12; week night services at 7; Mike Pennock, Brandon, evangelist; Wayne Crenshaw, pastor.

Calvary, New Augusta: June 7-11; Emmett Boone, Lynn Ray Road Church, Petal, evangelist; services, Sunday, 11 a.m. and dinner on the grounds; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Ricky Gill, pastor.

Bethany, Slate Spring: June 14-19; David Skinner, Mid-America Seminary, Memphis, evangelist; Lee Gordon, First Church, Houston, music; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:45 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Henry E. Hight, pastor.

Pine View Mission, Houston: tent meeting, June 14-19; Tom Popelka, evangelist; Huel Moseley, music; Jeff Jackson, pastor.

Crowder, Crowder (North Delta): lay renewal weekend, June 5-7; Fri., 6:30 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Sun., 10 a.m.; Ernest Gunter, Tupelo, coordinator; Harvey Sewell, pastor.

Concord, Pelahatchie: June 14-19; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Dennis Dunn, Eastside, Pearl, evangelist; Tommy and Carol Joy Sparkman, Parkway, Jackson, music; LaVerne Summerlin, pastor.

Names in the news



Mississippi Writers — Four writers from Mississippi attended the 1992 writers conference at Woman's Missionary Union in Birmingham. Seated, left to right, are Betty Smith, Clinton, now on the staff of the Baptist Record and Barbara Wilkinson, Brandon. Standing are Stuart Calvert, Ashland, and Ewilda Fancher, Jackson. They joined more than 70 writers from across the country to receive training to write WMU materials for the 1993-94 church year. (Photo by Clay Allison)

David Cornelius, a missionary to Nigeria, will become director of black church relations at the Foreign Mission Board effective July 1. Cornelius, from Texarkana, Texas, will promote foreign missions in churches, recruit black Southern Baptists for foreign mission service and work as a liaison between the board and black Baptist conventions. Cornelius, 47, and his wife have served in Nigeria since 1984.

Immanuel Church, Columbus, will honor its pastor, Mike Stephens for 15 years of ministry on June 7 at the 7 p.m. worship service. "It's been the hardest work of my life, the most enjoyable and rewarding," Stephens said. "These are by far the most sincere people I have pastored."

William Larry Ziglar, Mississippi College graduate and now president of Wingate College in North Carolina, gave the charge to the graduating class. He was formerly pastor of Ebenezer Church in Ebenezer and Midway Church, Jackson. His mother, Mrs. W. H. Ziglar lives in Pascagoula.

Anthony George, an M.Div. student from Kosciusko, is the recipient of the Bessie M. Sarchet Award in Preaching. The award was presented during the recent commencement events at Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

W. Craig Turner, head of the Department of English and professor of English at Mississippi College, has been named vice president for Academic Affairs at Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Texas. Turner was recently honored with the Alpha Chi-Faculty Council Distinguished Professor Award at Mississippi College.



First Church, New Albany, recently celebrated the 10th anniversary of its pastor and Mrs. Tom Sumrall. Donald Dye, left, chairman of deacons, presented to the Sumralls an all expense paid mission trip to Zimbabwe. He will lead Bible study each day of the annual mission meeting and preach on Sunday. Mrs. Sumrall will work in Vacation Bible School with 35 missionary kids attending with their parents. The Sumralls were also presented the gift of a limited edition, signed and numbered print of St. Basil's Cathedral by artist G. Harvey.

William Ansil Crabill of Marks, 80, retired cotton businessman, died of a heart attack. Crabill was a Sunday School for many years and was chairman of deacons at First Baptist Church.

Melvin Crawley is available for supply, interim, and revivals. He has pastored churches in Quitman, Lafayette, Calhoun, and Pontotoc counties. Crawley can be contacted at Rt. 2, Box 219, Pontotoc, MS 38863 or call 489-4832.

Michael Hankins was licensed to the gospel ministry May 10 by Corinth Church, Magee. Hankins, a native of Magee, is married to the former Lisa Hollingsworth of Meadville. They have two children.

Hankins

Just for the Record

Thursday, June 4, 1992

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 11

Church adopts expanded annuity plan

The following church has adopted the Expanded Annuity Plan since those reported in the May 7 issue of the Baptist Record: Bethel Chickasaw.

First Church, Gulfport, will hold homecoming and reunion

First Church, Gulfport, will hold a church-wide homecoming and reunion July 4-5, 1992. Events include dinner and fellowship Saturday evening, July 4, honoring former staff and youth leaders, followed by a fireworks display in the Gulfport harbor.

The reunion features a "mystery guest roast" by special guests, pizza dinner, special children's party, and award presentations. Special guest speakers include former staff members: Jim Keith, Resource Services, Inc., Dallas; Jimmy Cutrell, minister of music, Gainesville, Ga.; Randall Perry, pastor, St. Andrews Church, Panama City, Fla.; James Byrd, pastor, First Church, Luverne, Al.; Sylvia Green, organist, East Grand Church, Dallas, Tx.; and Mike Carr, pastor, Wesson Church, Wesson.



Keith



Cutrell

Entertainment will be provided by "The Messengers" and Sylvia Green, and Jimmy Cutrell. Nursery and children's party will be provided. Contact FBC Gulfport, 601-863-8501 for information and reservations or write FBC REUNION COMMITTEE, 203 Bridgers Hill, Longview, Texas, 75605.

The Cat Saddle

By Tom Walden

Otis, Arnold, and I were bad about slipping off and going to the old wash hole in a small creek over in the back forty of Mammy and Pappie's farm. Otis and I were about 8 years old and Arnold was about 7. I think all three of us would have liked to live in that old wash hole. It has been a dry summer and the creek had almost dried up, and the wash hole was the largest hole in the little creek. Our folks wished that it had dried up. They were afraid for us to go there because of the snakes they had seen around it.

On this occasion they flatly told us that if they caught us in there they would whip us and we knew they meant it. We were so determined to go that we slipped off going the wrong direction, circling the whole farm, and ending up at the wash hole. We thought we had it made. None would ever know. We had outfoxed the old folks.

Well, we jerked off our clothes and in Otis and I went. Arnold was a little slower. When he got his clothes off he stepped into the water and screamed, "I'm snake bit!" The snake was still hanging to Arnold's heel. Otis kicked it loose and it swam off. By the time we got into our clothes Arnold was already getting real sick. We were scared to death. Didn't know what to do. We were close to a quarter of a mile from the house.

With Arnold between us, Otis and I tried to carry him. Then we would drag him.

We were not doing very well and we were scared that he was going to die. We had forgotten about the whipping. That didn't matter any more. We were "give out." Then Otis said, "Why don't we make a cat saddle?" We did and we crossed over corn rows and terraces, but we finally got there. His leg had already swollen and he didn't look too good.

Doctor Gilmore came. Our folks had already put his foot in a foot tub of coal oil and were giving him homemade tobacco to chew up and swallow the juice that was to make him sick enough to vomit up the poison. The doctor asked where it happened and how we got him to the house. He knew we were small. Someone said "They made a cat saddle."

The doctor said "Saved by cat saddle."

Arnold had a bad foot and leg for a long time. We did not go back to that old wash hole and we did not get that whipping. I think we would have felt better if we had.

"God will not look you over for medals, degrees, or diplomas, but for SCARS." P.S. A cat saddle is made by two people clasping hands to each other's arms just below the elbows, thus forming a box square. Try it.

A heap of folks out there will not be able to get over the corn rows and terraces of life unless some of us make a "cat saddle" and help them over the rough spots.

Walden lives in Jackson.

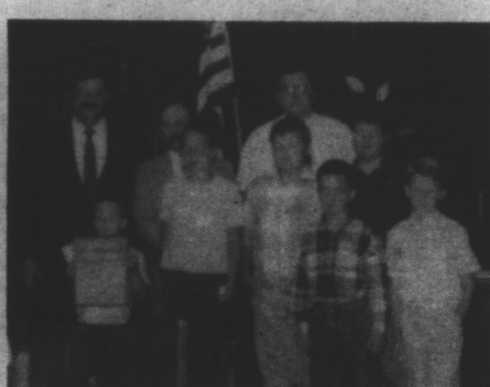
Senior Adult Corner

First Church, Columbus, was entertained recently by the Super Senior Singers of the L.L.L. (Live Long and Like It) Club. Supper was served to members and guests. Following this the group presented The Grand

Ole Opry style of years gone by. Everyone dressed in clothes in style at those times. Wayne Jackson is minister of music and produced the entertainment. Jeannine Fraser, pianist, accompanied.



Arlington Church, Bogue Chitto, recently held a special missions service for its GAs and RAs. Recognition of these chapters was brought by Henry Ballard, associational RA director for the Jim Tilton Chapter of RAs, and Mrs. Daveen



McCollough, associational GA director for the Penni Tilton Chapter of GAs. Other activities included presentation and pledge to the flags. David Waits is pastor.

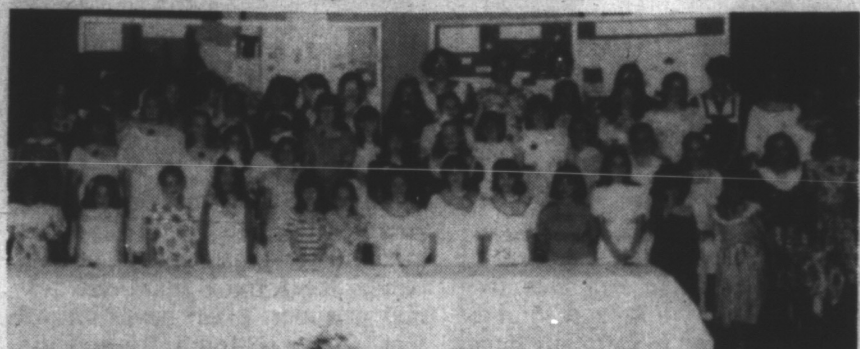


Lowery Creek Church, Jones Association, recently completed and paid for a new pastorium in seven months. The church is now financially debt-free and plans to call a full-time pastor. Harold C. Ishee is interim pastor.



Acteens from Mt. Horeb Church, Collins, attended an Acteen Recognition Service recently at Mississippi College, Clinton.

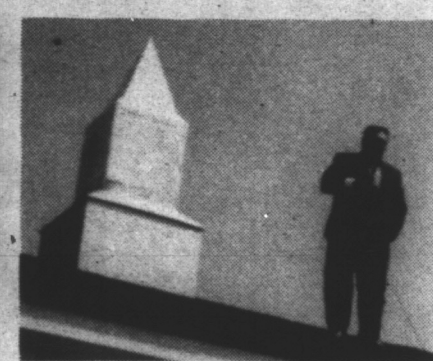
Pictured, front row, from left, are Helen Price, Camp Garaywa summer director and speaker at the recognition service; Kellie Perkins, Mt. Horeb Church Acteen director; B. J. Graves and Gayla McRaney, who achieved Queen with Scepter level; and Jennifer McDonald, Queen. Back row, Jan Cossitt, Acteen director for the Mississippi Baptist Convention; Patricia Nowell and Karyn Langford, Service Aide; Ann McGowen, Mary Ann Graves and Kristen McRaney, Queen Regent. The girls were also recognized in their home church Sunday, May 17, in a Candlelight Recognition Service. Jodi and Karri Lyons, who did not attend the service at Mississippi College, were also presented their awards.



First Church, Madison, held a Mother-Daughter Banquet for its GAs in grades 1-6, May 7. The girls who completed the required courses were given badges in a special recognition ceremony. Peggy Arthur was the Girls in Action director for the year '91-'92.



First Church, Flora, held ground breaking on March 29 for an addition and renovation of educational space at a cost of \$378,000. Members of the building committee are pictured, left to right, Randy Gaultlebaum, Rudy Irwin, Chuck Hampton, pastor, Virginia Giddy, David Harris, Jim Giddy, and O. J. Pearce. Not pictured are Bob Laurie and Lynda Hays.



Mack Carney, pastor of Beatline Church, Philadelphia, promised the church he would get on top of the church building and sing if the attendance reached its goal of over 60 in Sunday School. The church achieved this goal for two Sundays in a row with over 70 in attendance.

New Hope Church, Gulf Coast Association, is conducting Christian Family Emphasis programs at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday nights through June 21. Family Emphasis Day will be recognized on Sunday, June 14, with Lynn Chapuis preaching and presenting videos about family relationships. Family issues are also being discussed in Discipleship Training.

Sardis Lake Church, Batesville, will have a homecoming and dedication of its recently installed lighted sign. The sign is being dedicated in honor of two men who helped begin the church, Wallace Moore and Bernie Keating. Services will be held on June 14 at 11 a.m. Dedication services will follow after lunch.

Parkhill Church, Jackson, will celebrate its 36th anniversary June 14, 11 a.m. James C. Edwards will be guest speaker. Following dinner, Diplomat quartet will sing. Jimmy Sellers is pastor.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

First Church of Runnelstown, Petal: June 15-19; 8-11 a.m. daily for nursery age through 6th grade; Mrs. Helen Carter will be director.

Country Woods Church, Jackson, June 14-19; 6-9 p.m. 3 year olds-6th grade; registration, Sunday 4:30 p.m.; Gary M. Bunch, pastor.

Byram Church, Jackson: June 22-26; 6:30-9 p.m.; preparation day, June 20, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; James D. Wittington, pastor.

Pastors may miss God's agenda, doing what members expect

By Sarah Zimmerman

LAS VEGAS (BP)—Some churches are not growing because their pastors are too busy doing what church members expect, said a preacher who rarely makes hospital visits, seldom performs weddings and never participates in his church's jail ministry.

"The average pastor is doing just what people expect him to do," Johnny Hunt, pastor of First Church of Woodstock, Ga., told 400 people attending a Home Mis-

sion Board school of evangelism and church growth in Las Vegas.

Hunt based his comments on Moses' conversation with his father-in-law, Jethro, in Exodus 18. When Jethro asked Moses why he spent all day settling the people's disputes, Moses said he did so because the people expected it.

Today's pastors are like Moses, "running at the dictates of their church members," Hunt said. "They are more conscious of doing what

the members want them to do than what God wants them to do."

"The question is, who are you trying to please?"

One step towards God's agenda is for pastors to follow Jethro's advice and train men who fear God to minister. Hunt defined men who fear God as people of morality, integrity, honesty, and accountability.

Sharing responsibilities gives Hunt time to study God's Word and prepare to present it to his people,

which he said is the pastor's main responsibility. It also frees lay people to minister as God calls them.

"Efficiency sometimes reveals itself not by what one accomplishes but by what one relinquishes," Hunt said.

As churches grow, the workload must be shared or pastors will experience burn-out and church members will become frustrated with the pastor, he said.

Pastors can keep the excitement in

their ministry by constantly recalling God's grace. "We need to fall in love with Jesus and never get over it," Hunt said.

Rejoicing over God's goodness also will restore joy, Hunt said.

"Our worship services are a celebration of what God has done in our lives and what he did at the cross. I thought about putting up a billboard for our church that said, 'Happy Hour: 11 a.m. Sunday.'"

Zimmerman writes for HMB.

Jones County Assn. sponsors mission fair

Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood of Jones Association went all out for missions May 16 with a "Family-A-Fair" at the fairgrounds in Laurel.

Festivities included games, missions booths, clowns, food and a program called "Together Time."

Churches of the association were responsible for the booths which represented missions in many forms: Jones County Baptist Ministries (Russell Cottingham); Montana Mission or the Direct Missions Fellowship (Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Flowers); Zimbabwe Partnership (Doug Broom); Illinois/Alaska Partnership (Joan Tyler, state WMU president); Big A Club; Mission Action (West Ellisville Church); Volunteer Medical Mission (Joey Cooley); Honduras Dental/Medical Mission (William Wells, Bob Holifield); Guatemala (Mrs. Penny Stamps, missionary to Guatemala); Honduras (Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Stamps, missionaries to Honduras); Hope International (Rod Smith); Brotherhood; Baptist Women; Baptist Young Women; Acteens; Girls in Action; Royal

Ambassadors; Mission Friends; and Baptist Student Union.

Chalk artist Ralph Graves performed, as did clowns from First, Sharon, Sand Hill, and Tucker's Crossing.

Allan Nix, director of missions, was master of ceremonies for "Together Time," and Henry Buckalew, mayor of Laurel, led the invocation. Jimmy and Alane Knight of Bethlehem Church presented special music; Big A Club of West Ellisville church made a special presentation; Ronney Joe Webb of First, Laurel, was seen "Clowning Around;" and Robin Nichols, Discipleship Training Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, talked about "Missions Magic."

Dell Scoper is associational WMU director. Scott Wilson is the associational Brotherhood director.

"The best time to stand up to any of life's situations is immediately after you get up from praying on your knees." — Dr. O. A. Batista



Mississippians win National ACTS Awards

Pictured are the Mississippi winners of the National ACTS Awards during the Network Annual event held in Fort Worth, Texas. Left to right are: Jack Johnson, president, Radio & Television Commission and ACTS Network; Ken Anderson, Anderson Productions, Jackson, winner of Human Interest Special, "The MVP Spirit;" Farrell Blankenship, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Broadcast Services Department, Jackson, winner of Religious Special, "If You Love Me...Highlights of the 1991 Mississippi Baptist Convention;" Mike Myrick, manager, Local ACTS Board, Laurel, winner of Musical Series, "PowerTracts;" and Mike Wright, vice-president, Network Operations, ACTS Network.

Navy is seeking chaplains

ATLANTA (BP)—Despite cuts in U.S. military personnel, the Navy is currently seeking chaplain candidates, the head of naval minister recruitment said.

Requirements for chaplain candidates include:

— A commitment to 3 years of full-time active duty.

— Two years of ministry experience.

— 90 semester hours of post-graduate work towards a master of divinity or similar degree.

— Endorsement of the candidate's denomination.

Southern Baptists seeking more information about chaplaincy opportunities can call Lew Dawson at the Home Mission Board's chaplaincy division, (404) 898-7423, or write him at chaplaincy division, Home Mission Board, 1350 Spring Street, NW, Atlanta, GA 30367-5601.

Dallas Baptist collection shares Corrie ten Boom legacy

By Darrell Wood

DALLAS (BP) — In the year she would have turned 100, the Corrie ten Boom Collection at Dallas Baptist University remains a continuing reminder of the Dutch evangelical's life and message.

Affectionately called "Tante Corrie" by Moore (Tante being the Dutch word for aunt), the gifted Christian writer and communicator was best known through the book, "The Hiding Place," and movie of the same name. Christians and Jews in numerous countries have been touched by Ten Boom's story of faith and courage — how Jesus Christ gave victory over the horrors of the Nazi concentration camp. She and her family were imprisoned at Ravensbruck, Germany, for hiding Jewish friends in their home in Haarlem, Holland, during World War II. Called "righteous gentiles" by the Israeli government, she and others like her — Protestants and Catholics alike — risked their homes, families, businesses, and lives to save

Jewish neighbors and even strangers from Nazi slaughter.

Perhaps the greatest legacy of Ten Boom's life and ministry involved God's love and forgiveness highlighted in Germany by an experience she had in a Munich church in 1947. After she spoke, a balding, heavyset man approached her. A shudder swept over her as she recognized him as one of the German guards at Ravensbruck concentration camp where she and her sister, Betsie, were interned. (Betsie was finally "freed" from Ravensbruck — one of 96,000 women to die there.)

The former Nazi storm trooper had become a Christian after the war. He said he knew God had forgiven him for the cruel things he did at Ravensbruck and asked Ten Boom to forgive him too.

By a sheer act of the will and God's grace, she placed her hand into his hand outstretched to her.

"I forgive you, brother!" Ten Boom cried. "With all my heart!"

She recounted that electrifying reconciliation: "For a long moment we grasped each other's hands, the former guard and former prisoner. I had never known God's love so intensely as I did then."

God gave Corrie ten Boom a global ministry after age 50, in obedience to her Lord and to sister Betsie's plea that they must "tell people" what happened at Ravensbruck.

The Corrie ten Boom Collection at DBU is open weekdays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays, 8 a.m. to noon. Admission is free.

Wood is director of public relations at Dallas Baptist University.

Before we set our hearts on something we should look to see how happy those are who already have it.

Highway to heaven

(This article appears as Part 1 of a series of articles on the Plan of Salvation).

You will not find it on a map, but a highway to heaven does exist. The Roman Road is explained in the book of Romans in the Bible, and it tells how to go to heaven.

The road begins at Romans 1:16. God is the source of energy for our journey to heaven. He gives power for salvation to all who believe. We need God's power because we all have a problem with sin (Rom. 3:23). "Sin" means missing the mark, or falling short of God's intended destination for us. None of us can reach the destination on our own because all of us are sinners.

When we work, we earn money. Sin earns wages as well — wages of death. Because God loves all sinners, he has provided another route: "The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 6:23).

The highway to heaven is found in Romans 10:9: "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." The Holy Spirit tells us we need to confess our sins and should ask for forgiveness. To confess Jesus as Lord involves confessing your sin and your need for salvation. You must repent of your sin, turn away from the direction in life that you have chosen, and obey and serve Jesus, trusting that he died on the cross to pay for your sins (Rom. 5:8).

If you would have salvation in Jesus Christ, pray a prayer like this one: "Lord Jesus, I confess to you my sin and need for salvation. I turn away from my sin and place my faith in you as my Savior and Lord. Amen."

Share your faith in Jesus with a pastor or Christian friend.

— Reprinted with permission from the Sunday School Board, SBC.

RIVER

From page 6

food down there."

Goode said he hopes the ministry will coordinate the existing 2,375 Southern Baptist churches in the area with help from outside the Delta region.

Arkansas and Mississippi Baptists already have formed a partnership to send volunteers from one state to the other. "Sometimes it's easier to go right across the river and do something than it is to do something right where you live," Goode said.

Although the region is about 21% Southern Baptist, Goode compares the region to a pioneer mission field because "we're

going to want to reach people groups we're not presently reaching through our churches."

The program is being organized by the state Baptist associations from the areas affected, with support from the Home Mission Board, WMU, and the Brotherhood Commission.

In light of recent riots in Los Angeles and elsewhere, Goode said the ministry will also work to improve race relations in the Delta.

"I see that as a real challenge that can either make or break a lot that we do," Goode said. "We're also going to have to deal with the kind of cynicism among people who have been abused by systems."

Winfrey writes for HMB.

TV'S HARM

From page 9

The pediatricians urged parents to cut their children's television viewing time to one or two hours a day and to develop alternative family activities.

The key is the home, according to the report.

"We know from audience-rating surveys that television occupies a central place in the lives of many Americans," said John Murray, head of human development and family studies at Kansas State University and one of the drafters of the report. "The typical household has the TV set turned on for more

than seven hours each day, and this figure has been steadily rising over the past decade." Observers insist, however, the danger lies not in the television medium itself but in its misuse.

"What is most needed in addressing the role of television in American society," Murray added, "is an understanding of the ways to use TV sensibly and an appreciation of the subtle influences that this medium may have on our lives."

Yet most families have not acted. In a national survey of elementary school students, 58% said their parents set no limits on the amount of television they can view.

RECLAIM

From page 9

vision is not used as a baby sitter and family members can still have some interaction.

— Set a good example. "It will be difficult to encourage children to accept responsible TV habits if parents set bad examples in their own viewing," Christian Life Commission materials note. "If TV plays a major role in the parents' lives, it will likely do the same in their children's lives."

Evelyn Kaye, author of *The Family Guide to Children's Television*, says setting limits is

appropriate: "Children learn there are rules about crossing the street, about brushing teeth, about not eating dangerous substances. And in the same way they can learn that television is one aspect of their lives which does not have to overwhelm all other activities."

Unless families take proactive measures, many more will find their family life dominated by the magic box that a Newsweek columnist once called the "stranger in the house."

"It's insidious," added media activist Summers. "It just kind of takes over the family without anybody really acknowledging its presence."

MOSCOW

From page 8

They've purchased so far one desktop publishing system for Odessa and Lozuk just sent an order for two big offset presses.

Through the FMB, Southern Baptists have invested about \$330,000 in publishing equipment for Odessa and Moscow, with the capital outlay from the Lottie Moon Offering. Lozuk says the Sunday School Board has sent teams for helping develop an all age Sunday School—currently mostly children attend Sunday School in the handful of cooperating Baptist churches in Russia. In Odessa, the people have written their own Sunday School materials.

As for personnel in the future, Lozuk has already requested a couple to coordinate moving evan-

gelistic and special teams. They are looking at bringing in numerous teachers for English. Lozuk has three lined up this summer and eight requested for fall and eight more for two years.

They need two people for St. Petersburg for mass media and church planting. A family is needed in Minsk for hospital and jail chaplaincy. And for Kiev they need a family to transfer to work with builders with a North Carolina partnership and get a brick factory put up. A man in the Ukraine has offered Lozuk a brick factory for just over \$100,000, including a brick press and crusher equipment.

Lozuk says that a lot of religious groups are coming through Russia now. "When they're gone, if a teacher has a question, who will answer it?" Southern Baptist missionaries will be there, doing what they always do, pouring their lives into a people.

Thursday, June 4, 1992



Johnny Glenn Hutchison, left, of Duck Hill, and William Vincent Johnson, right, of Hattiesburg, received the doctor of ministry and doctor of philosophy degrees, respectively, from Southwestern Seminary. With Hutchison and Johnson is Russell H. Dilday, president, Southwestern Seminary.

SWBTS graduates 19 Mississippians

Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, awarded 378 degrees in its commencement ceremonies held May 8. Among those graduating were 19 Mississippians. Receiving doctorate degrees were Johnny Glenn Hutchison, Duck Hill, and William Vincent Johnson, Hattiesburg. Those receiving masters' degrees included: Angela Susan Boydston, Louisville, Angela K. Bryant, Gulfport, master of divinity with biblical languages; John Robert Burt, Fulton, master of divinity with biblical languages; Debbie Chisolm, Ellisville, master of arts in religious education; Joseph Steven Chisolm, Enterprise, master of arts in marriage and family counseling and master of arts in religious education; David Croxton, West Sedona, master of divinity with biblical languages; Desiree Lynn Drummond, Tupelo,

master of arts in religious education; Kenneth Raymond Hester, Shelby, master of divinity with biblical languages; Temple Hester, New Albany, master of divinity; Dana Marie Inmon, Pontotoc, master of arts in church social services; Johnny Keith McCraw, Mize, master of divinity with biblical languages; Johnnie Reed Neal, LaPlace, master of arts in religious education; Allen Sims, Hattiesburg, master of arts in religious education; Connie LaBelle Smith, Monticello, master of divinity; Harold Carter Smith, Saltillo, master of music; Eddie Eugene Thompson, Blue Mountain, master of arts in religious education; Allen Carl Winstead, Jackson, master of arts in religious education; and Jamie Zbinden, Clinton, master of arts in marriage and family counseling and master of arts in religious education.

"Go and tell Peter..."

By Jack Colvin
Mark 16:7

Why did Jesus single out Peter? Hadn't Peter just betrayed him? Peter bragged he would never deny him. When we read these words, we are moved by the love of our Lord and Savior. Jesus was concerned about Peter, and knew how disappointed Peter was in himself. Jesus wanted to comfort him and let him know he was loved. He could see far more in Peter than Peter could see in himself. Jesus saw him as a great leader in spreading the gospel and leading the early church.

Many churches neglect the group of lonely, once-active members who have fallen by the wayside. We should search for new prospects, but Jesus said to "go and tell Peter."

Sure, those on our rolls who have fallen away are not easy to bring home into the fellowship. Many feel neglected, misunderstood, or hurt. Whether those feelings are real or imagined, they are real to the one feeling them. These people need to see and sense the love of God in their lives through someone who really cares about them. Jesus said to "go and tell Peter."

Think of the joy that comes when the family is united again. Even if we fail 75% of the time, we could see a large increase in our attendance by pursuing these members who have fallen. We are not to worry about failure or success. Our concern is to be available for God to use us in reclaiming those who are out of the fold.

Colvin is a member of Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, and serves on the Annuity Board.



Colvin

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 13

FULANI

From page 4

wars, the Fulani became rulers of kingdoms concentrated in present-day Guinea, Nigeria and Cameroon. Elements of these kingdoms lasted well into the 20th century. Colonial governments asserted some of their power through Fulani rulers, but not until decolonization did other ethnic groups establish complete control of these areas.

This history is embedded in a Fulani's psyche. Even today, in a Fulani's conversation, there are occasional references to the jihads.

Yet in those same conversations, a Fulani's appreciation of cattle outshines even his pride in a royal heritage. Other ethnic groups, however, consider the nomadic Fulani uneducated, primitive and uncivilized.

Among the Fulani, those who follow a traditional nomadic lifestyle enjoy a prestige all their own, although most Fulani have settled down to some degree. Today the range of Fulani lifestyles is as diverse as their population is spread out. Some live in one place for several years, then move on. Others have been settled for generations. Some of the poorest Fulani have lost their cattle through disease or poor management and have taken up full-time farming, which most other Fulani consider disgraceful.

Another factor that threatens Fulani society: Local and national governments have begun to restrict the movement of Fulani herds. Since a growing number of countries consider Fulani cattle a national resource, they now restrict the movement of herds across national borders, said Southern Baptist missionary Paul Burkwall.

"More and more governments insist that when the Fulani move into a country with their cattle, they have to stay," Burkwall said. "If they want to migrate, they have to leave their cows behind. Their way of life is dying. It's predicted in the next 20 years it will be gone."

The Fulani in the southwest have settled, taken up farming, and speak the local Hausa language. But they remain proud of their heritage. The status of owning cattle is still so great that successful Fulani who live and trade in the cities often will buy a herd and hire someone to tend it.

The dependency on farming greatly increased in 1983 when a devastating epidemic wiped out thousands of Fulani cattle. For many Fulani families the only alternative was to farm and hope they could make enough money to rebuild a herd.

"They want to have cattle if possible," Burkwall said. "But when their cows died they had to depend even more on farming. They hate it, but they have to survive."

Martin writes for FMB.

Oops!

The May 28 issue of the Baptist Record incorrectly reported Steve F. Bain of Tupelo as being a graduate of Blue Mountain College and Southern Seminary. The article should have read, "Bain has done undergraduate work at Blue Mountain College and graduate work at Southern Seminary." We regret the error.

LIFE AND WORK

Growing yet incomplete



By Lola M. Autry
Revelation 2:18-29

The apostle Paul in the book of Acts speaks of a woman named Lydia. She was from Thyatira, the city where the church John writes about was located. Lydia was a business woman — a seller of purple. Thyatira was the regional center of the wool and dyeing industry of that time. Most dyes were made from plant roots, but purple dye was taken from a little seashell animal, a murex. Only one drop of this dye could be abstracted from each animal, therefore materials of a purple color were very expensive. This minimum of secretion was the basis for this most royal of colors.

When we become Christians we are not completed in the faith of our Lord in the sense that we know all about him. We are like that one drop of purple taken from the murex. We have the basis for an expanding and beautiful life for the Master, but that individual "drop" of faith was the result of the personal sacrifice of Jesus.

The risen Lord: All-seeing and powerful (v. 18). Jesus instructs John to write to the church at Thyatira. First, Jesus identifies himself as the Son of God and describes himself: eyes like a flame of fire; feet like fine brass. He sees and rules over all creation, including the church.

Commendation: Growing in devotion (v. 19). Jesus notes the good activities of this church. He praises their spiritual growth as they expand their service in his name. It is not enough to expand service. Spiritual growth must be an integral part of the expansion.

In his book *How to Live a Christian Life*, Cecil B. Murphy asks the question, "What are God's minimum daily requirements?" He suggests the minimum requirement is faith in Jesus, but emphasizes that being a Christian is not a static relationship. We never arrive at perfection. We never reach our goal of being sinless. Always we move forward and gain insight, then fail at some point. That's the time Jesus lets us know he is aware of our efforts to obey him.

Accusation: Permissive toward wickedness (vv. 20-23). After stating the good points of the church at Thyatira, Jesus points to the bad. He knows all about us. This church had allowed a prophetess named Jezebel to teach untruths in the church. She had taught that it was all right to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed to idols.

In our churches today we sometimes are guilty of allowing sinful practices to enter. We wink at some of these sins and excuse them. Our God doesn't! He has set for us the way that is right and when we leave that way others follow and Satan enters. Barry L. Johnson, in *Choosing Hope*, writes that any time the human will takes precedence over the divine will, the consequence is sin. He also states "Sin is simple. It's the 'I' above all else." It is easy to rationalize our sins. It is difficult to overcome temptation to sin. Verses 21 and 23 tell of the consequences of the sins of Jezebel.

Exhortation: Cling to godly principles (vv. 24-25). Galatians 3:11 reads: "The just shall live by faith." True faith leads to right actions. Right actions lead to godliness. Jesus admonishes us to cling to his doctrines and principles until he comes.

Promise: Reign with the victorious Christ (vv. 26-28). Jesus was encouraging the faithful at Thyatira by promising eternal victory with him. "The morning star" of verse 28 refers to Christ. To the saved at Thyatira he gave himself and his help. He offers the same to us.

I watched a dogsled team as it took off on a race across the frozen Bering Sea. The dogs strained in the harness, eager for the race. As new Christians we are often eager, straining to be a part of our Lord's team. Then as time passes, our vitality wanes and we sometimes fall by the wayside, give up. But Jesus promises in Revelation 2:10, "Be thou faithful and I will give thee a crown of life."

Autry lives at Hickory Flat, and is a member of Pine Grove Church.

BIBLE BOOK

Paul defends authority



By Charles Nestor
2 Corinthians 10:2-5, 13-18; 11:12-15

Paul attempted to be gentle with the false teachers at Corinth. They used his Christian courtesy as proof that he was weak and cowardly. Paul tried to be nice about the matter, but eventually he had to defend himself. His defense was not for himself but for the advancement of the gospel of Christ.

I. Paul's defense against the charge of cowardice (10:2-5). Paul's accusers charged that he was bold when he was not in Corinth. He could write harsh and challenging letters, but was timid when he came to visit them. In his letter, Paul stated that he hoped he would not have to be bold when he visited them. However, he knew he would be confronted by some of his accusers; he prepared for such a meeting.

Paul was accused of living in accordance to the ways of the world. He admitted that he did live in the world, but was filled with spiritual power that gave him victory over the world. Paul experienced the same problems Jesus told his disciples: the world will not love you because you are my witnesses. Paul could deal with his critics in a Christian manner because his life was hidden in Christ.

How do you deal with your critics? Our lives are to be hidden in Christ because he is the one who gives us victory over the world. Chuck Swindoll said, "I made a decision long ago that I will not allow my critics to control me." Paul made that decision, too. He was controlled by Christ. If our witness is to count for anything, Christ controls us.

II. Paul's defense against the charge of exceeding his authority (10:13-18). Paul's critics measured themselves by the standards of men. They placed great value in their letters of commendation. They challenged Paul's authority. He did not compare himself to other humans or measure himself by himself. His standards were from God, and these were made available to the Corinthians, even Paul's critics. Paul affirmed that he did not go beyond the authority God gave him. His opponents claimed authority he did not have because of their letters of recommendation. On the other hand, Paul was a pioneer of mission work in Corinth. God had appointed him as an apostle to the Gentiles before anyone else started work in that area. Paul felt his opponents were trying to take over work he had started and claim credit for the results. He would not be guilty of such action.

Paul's concern was that the Corinthians would mature in their faith and become stable witnesses for Christ. Paul assured them he had no interest in getting credit for another's mission work, but he did not want another attempting to discredit the work God had done through him. He wanted to go on to other areas and introduce them to the love of God. Paul did not advocate giving glory to any man, nor did he want any for himself. God was the one to receive all the glory. Paul knew that any good accomplished was because of God working through him. The most important recommendation any person could receive comes from God, not man. That was Paul's authority.

Our authority also comes from God. When we are willing to give God the glory for what he does through us, we are becoming a true disciple of his. We must not allow the world to distract us from our primary mission of leading people to Christ.

III. Paul's rebuke of his accusers (11:12-15). Paul accused them of just pretending to be apostles of Christ. This is typical of Satan because he disguises himself as an angel of light. These false witnesses may seem to succeed for a time, but they will eventually collapse under the judgment of God.

We are living in a time when there are many witnesses around us; all are not of God. There is a great need for Christians filled with the presence of God and the knowledge of his Word. We are charged with the responsibility to "bring them in from the fields of sin." Our authority is the Word of God. There is not a power in this world that can compare to it. Let us continue to study, to pray, and to give, that the world will know the truth and be set free to serve the living God.

Nestor is pastor, First Church, Bruce.

UNIFORM

God's justice will prevail



By Bobby Williamson
Obadiah 1-21

Seth Joshua, one of the leaders of the great Welsh revival of generations ago, once arrived in a town where he was scheduled to preach. There he found placards everywhere announcing, "the Great Seth Joshua." They told all about him but were in reality advertising a stage imitation of the minister at a local theater that night. Grotesque drawings promised much fun at the expense of this servant of the Lord. That night the theater was packed and the crowd cheered as the actor came on the stage in perfect imitation of the preacher Joshua. The actor raised his arms as he circled the stage burlesquing the Bible and the evangelist. The third time around the actor fell with a thud and a hushed audience soon discovered that he was dead. God will not hold his wrath forever.

Our lesson this week is from the shortest of all Old Testament books, Obadiah. Obadiah's prophecy is strong, but not strong enough to justify the charge by many that it is a hymn of hate. The intense mood is undergirded by a sense of justice. It seems the kinsmen had violated tribal bonds and committed terrible crimes. Their sins had to be punished. The Israelites, though, recognized God as the Judge of all nations, universal in power, with an all-seeing eye that no one escapes. God's concern for the oppressed demands that we be just with others in our daily walk.

I. Introduction (v. 1). In verse one, Obadiah receives a direct message from the Lord concerning Edom. The very name Obadiah means "Servant of the Lord." Here God's servant has a vision. The visions of the prophets form a unique class. For the most part they were granted to holy men only, men who were surrendered to God's service. These visions were clearly distinguished, by those who saw them, from ordinary visions and were recognized as proceeding from God.

II. Edom's pride and destruction (vv. 2-4). The vision of Obadiah in these verses deals with Edom's pride and arrogance, and the Lord's judgement upon them. Edom apparently was very boastful. In verse 3 Edom says, "Who will bring me down to the ground?" Because of this pride and arrogance, Edom had deceived herself. All through the scriptures, we are warned of pride. Once again we see pride coming before a fall. In making application to our lives, we each should be warned of pride and arrogance. Pride and arrogance will lead us to loss and humiliation.

III. Edom's complete devastation (vv. 5-9). Verse 8 says, "Will I not on that day, says the Lord, destroy the wise men out of Edom and understanding out of Mount Esau?" Man's wisdom consistently leads to utter devastation, and thus we should always seek God's wisdom.

IV. Reasons for the destruction of Edom (vv. 10-14). Here God promises to judge the Edomites because of the terrible injustice they had done to Judah. The biblical admonition "you reap what you sow" once again comes to fruition. This is a very valuable lesson that we need to learn today. We cannot escape the eye of God. I do not live my life in constant fear of God, but I do live knowing that one of the natural laws of God is we reap what we sow, or as R.G. Lee said, "There will be a payday someday!"

V. God's judgment on all nations (vv. 15-18). Verse 15 says, "For the day of the Lord draws near on all nations. As you have done, it will be done to you. Your dealings will return on you own head." We live in the greatest country in the world, but one that will reap a bitter harvest for that which we have sown. Recently I heard someone make the statement, "The most dangerous place in America is the womb of a woman." This is an indictment on our society for which we will be judged. The perversion of homosexuality is bringing judgement on our land. There are many others. It is evident though, we reap what we sow.

VI. Restoration of Israel. Verses 17 and 21 tell us Judah would be restored to its former glory and God would reign supreme. God's promise of restoration and salvation can cause adults to hope in him for the peace they seek. If we seek peace, we must sow peace. If we seek joy, we must sow joy. As we study Edom's response to Judah's loss let us each learn to resist the temptation to take advantage of other people. God's prevailing justice demands that we be just with others.

Williamson is pastor, Park Place Church, Brandon.

THE VILLAGE VIEW

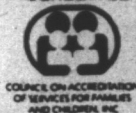


The Baptist Children's Village

Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

P. O. Box 27,
Clinton, MS 39050-0027
(601) 922-2242

ACCREDITED



THE STAFF OF THE BAPTIST CHILDREN'S VILLAGE CONGRATULATES OUR EIGHT 1992 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES.



Mary Brunson, Reedy Acres campus



Jaye McLaurin, India Nunnery campus



Rebecca Ferguson, India Nunnery campus



Joyce Hewitt, India Nunnery campus



William Fuller, Dickerson Place campus



Rhonda Jones, Reedy Acres campus



Allison Hubbard, Dickerson Place campus



Alicia Smith, India Nunnery campus

AT A RECENT STAFF MEETING SEVERAL OF OUR STAFF RECEIVED SERVICE PINS RECOGNIZING THEIR YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE TO THE MINISTRY OF THE BAPTIST CHILDREN'S VILLAGE.



Dona Brown, social worker, Reedy Acres — 5 years



Alabel Wiser, social worker, India Nunnery campus — 20 years



Wanda Grenn, receptionist, India Nunnery Campus — 1 year



Mike Crocker, unit director, Farrow Manor and Reedy Acres campuses — 5 years

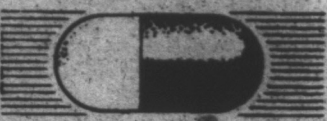


Clara Stevens, child care worker, India Nunnery Campus — 1 year



Hollie Roberts of our Deanash Campus was selected as queen of Stone County Elementary School.

capsules



RUSSIANS FILMING A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT EVERY HOME FOR CHRIST: COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (EP) — A team of six Russian film makers arrived in Colorado Springs April 1 to film a documentary at the headquarters of Every Home For Christ. The film makers were drawn to the ministry because of its gospel literature campaign in Moscow that has 350,000 homes and generated more than 60,000 written requests for EHC's Bible study materials. Last December, EHC's regional director for the Commonwealth of Independent States Paul Ilyin, appeared on Soviet television to discuss the crusade. "I shared how everyone is talking about the rebirth of Mother Russia, but that we first needed to be born from above as Jesus Christ told us in the New Testament," Ilyin said. "I also told how EHC is taking gospel booklets to every home in the former Soviet Union to explain this to everyone. Then I told all the viewers what it means to be born again and how to accept Jesus Christ as Savior." The show's producer, Nicolai Burdun, said Ilyin's 20-minute segment received the highest rating of any program aired that day and generated thousands of responses.

BIBLE FOR ATHLETES: COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo., May 1 — International Bible Society has published a New International Version (NIV) complete Bible for athletes entitled *Power for Competing*. "Sports are so much a part of our society," said International Bible Society Product Development Manager Glenn Paauw. "Through sports many people learn for better or for worse some of their first lessons in life, such as graciously winning or losing, how to compete fairly, and how to be a team player. These are important lessons which often carry over into how life is played out not only in the sports arena, but in the real world." *Power for Competing* is a complete NIV Bible with a combined 64 pages of special helps in the front and back sections. These sections use sports terminology (discipline, commitment, perseverance, accountability) and focus on athletic themes and their scriptural basis to help the athlete in his or her spiritual training. *Power for Competing* — A Bible for Athletes is available in soft cover only for \$3.95, or in case lots of 24 for \$3.50 each.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LITERATURE AVAILABLE IN BRAILLE: NASHVILLE (BP) — Several editions of Baptist Sunday School literature in braille have been made available for purchase from Park Avenue Church's ministry to the blind in Nashville. The lesson materials are prepared and shipped weekly for a cost recovery price of \$9.75 per quarter, according to Charles Couey, the church's director of blind ministries. Appropriate copyright permission has been obtained from the Sunday School Board, he said. Churches or persons interested in receiving any of the materials should contact Couey at Park Avenue Church, 4301 Charlotte Avenue, Nashville, TN 37209. Correspondence in print or braille may be used. Checks should be made payable to Park Avenue Baptist Church and noted for Braille SS Literature.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY DAY: George W. Truett's assessment that "Christ religion needs no prop..." is the Baptist Joint Committee's theme for Religious Liberty Day, June 7. Free material, poster, theme interpretation, and other materials can be obtained from Baptist Joint Committee, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, DC 20002.

DROUGHT SWEEPS ACROSS SOUTHERN AFRICA: HARARE, Zimbabwe (EP) — The worst drought in memory is sweeping across southern Africa, ruining the maize and sugar crops, killing birds, animals, and now causing starvation among the people. With no rain for three months, crops would not grow and water and food are in short supply. A Washington Post report quoted a school principal as saying he expected many children to drop out of school in May, because "they will be too weak to come." Some children had told him they have gone two days without eating. A New York Times report said teachers at one school gather food scraps every day to sustain their weakest students. The government says it needs 3,000 tons of food a day trucked in, but currently is managing only 1,000 tons. Opportunity International is one of many agencies working in the region. They are trying to raise funds for hand pumps, hoses, seed, and fertilizer to help 600 farmers irrigate fields in time for the May growing season. The organization says the farmers will be able to produce three to four times more food with the pumps than with the rope and bucket system they use now.

CARTER TO LEAD STUDY OF RACISM BY BWA: WASHINGTON (BP) — Former President Jimmy Carter has agreed to serve as honorary chairman of the Special Commission of Baptists Against Racism being formed by the Baptist World Alliance. In a May 14 letter of acceptance to the BWA, Carter, a Southern Baptist, said he is pleased to have his name listed and sent "warm, best wishes to fellow Baptists who are working to eliminate social discrimination." Carter will head an international committee of Baptist leaders from the United States and other countries, many of which are currently embroiled in racial and ethnic conflict. In inviting Carter to serve as commission chairman, Denton Lotz, BWA general secretary, told him "there is no Baptist anywhere in the world who has more visibility and courage and is known to be against racism than Jimmy Carter."

Missionary news

Alvin and Elizabeth Bailey, missionaries to Guatemala, have completed language study in Costa Rica and arrived on their field of service (address: Apartado 1135, 01901, Guatemala City, Guatemala). He is a native of Milledgeville, Ga. The former Elizabeth Walker, she was born in Jackson, Miss., and considers Ripley, Miss., her hometown. They were appointed in 1990.

Bill and Violet Hales, missionary associates to The Gambia, are on the field (address: Baptist Mission, P. O. Box 2376, Sere Kunda via Banjul, The Gambia). A native of Mississippi, he was born in Flora. She is the former Violet Humphries of Gaffney, S.C. They were employed by the Board in 1988.

Timothy and Dorcas Patterson, missionaries to Honduras, have arrived in Costa Rica for one year of language study (address: Apartado 100, 2350 San Francisco de Dos, San Jose, Costa Rica). He was born in Biloxi, Miss. The former Dorcas Villarreal, she was born in Houston, Texas. They were appointed in 1991.

Donald and Jo Redmon, missionaries to Costa Rica, are in the States (address: 322 College Ave., Panama City, Fla. 32401). He is a native of Panama City, and she is the former Jo Eubanks of Pontotoc County, Miss. They were appointed in 1963.

David and Mary Sills, missionaries to Ecuador, have completed

language study in Costa Rica and arrived on their field of service (address: Casilla 1085, Ambato, Ecuador). He is a native of Jackson, Miss. The former Mary Phillips, she was born in Alexandria, La., and considers Jackson her hometown. They were appointed in 1991.

Alvin and Mary Doyle, missionaries to Nigeria, have completed language study, and arrived on their field of service (address: P. O. Box 418, Jalingo, Taraba State, Nigeria, West Africa). He is a native of Louisiana. She is a former employee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Both consider Jackson their hometown. They were appointed in 1990.

Book reviews

STORIES FROM HOME, by Jerry Clower (University Press of Mississippi, 194 pp.; \$19.95, hardback, 1992).

What's the difference between a comic and a humorist? According to Mississippi's Jerry Clower, "A comic tells funny stories, and a humorist tells stories funny." Jerry Clower definitely fits the definition of a humorist. Few people have not heard Clower "tell stories funny" about his growing-up years in the East Fork community at Route 4,

Liberty, Miss.; the coon hunts and other escapades of his friends, the Ledbetter. In his latest book, *Stories from Home*, Clower adds to the well-known stories with some new, equally "stories told funny." The first section of the book is an in-depth interview of Clower by JoAnne Pritchard of University Press of Mississippi. He shares candidly of his humble beginnings during the hard Depression years and how his Christian faith has been the guiding force in every area of his

life, including his incredible career from fertilizer salesman to one of the most popular entertainers in America. *Stories from Home* is a "must-read" for everyone who wants to be treated to a hilarious visit to the funny side of life as told by a master humorist. — Reviewed by Betty Smith, Clinton.

WE'RE FAMILY: HELP FOR THE SMALLER-MEMBER-SHIP CHURCH, by D. G. McCoury and Gary Farley (Convention, 1992).

This book deals with aspects of smaller Baptist church life. Some topics are: "Your church is a family," "Your church's family album," "Your church's family neighborhood," "Your church's extended family," and others. The chapter on "Your church's family album" is especially helpful to the pastor who wants to understand how leadership works in the smaller church.

This book would be a good study for the leadership of a smaller church. It would help leaders see their church from a different perspective, and help pastors understand the small church. — Greg Potts, Brook



Mississippi's heritage

The late afternoon sun shines through moss-draped oaks at Ebenezer Church, Amite County. The Louisiana line is two miles away, through the woods in the background. Ebenezer was organized in 1806, the sixth Baptist church in Mississippi. A memorial shaft, erected to the memory of Richard Curtis, pioneer Baptist pastor, stands in the churchyard. (Photo by Anne McWilliams)

Baptist Record

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SOUTHERN BAPT HISTORICAL SO 00
901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 401
NASHVILLE TN 37203

Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

June 4, 1992